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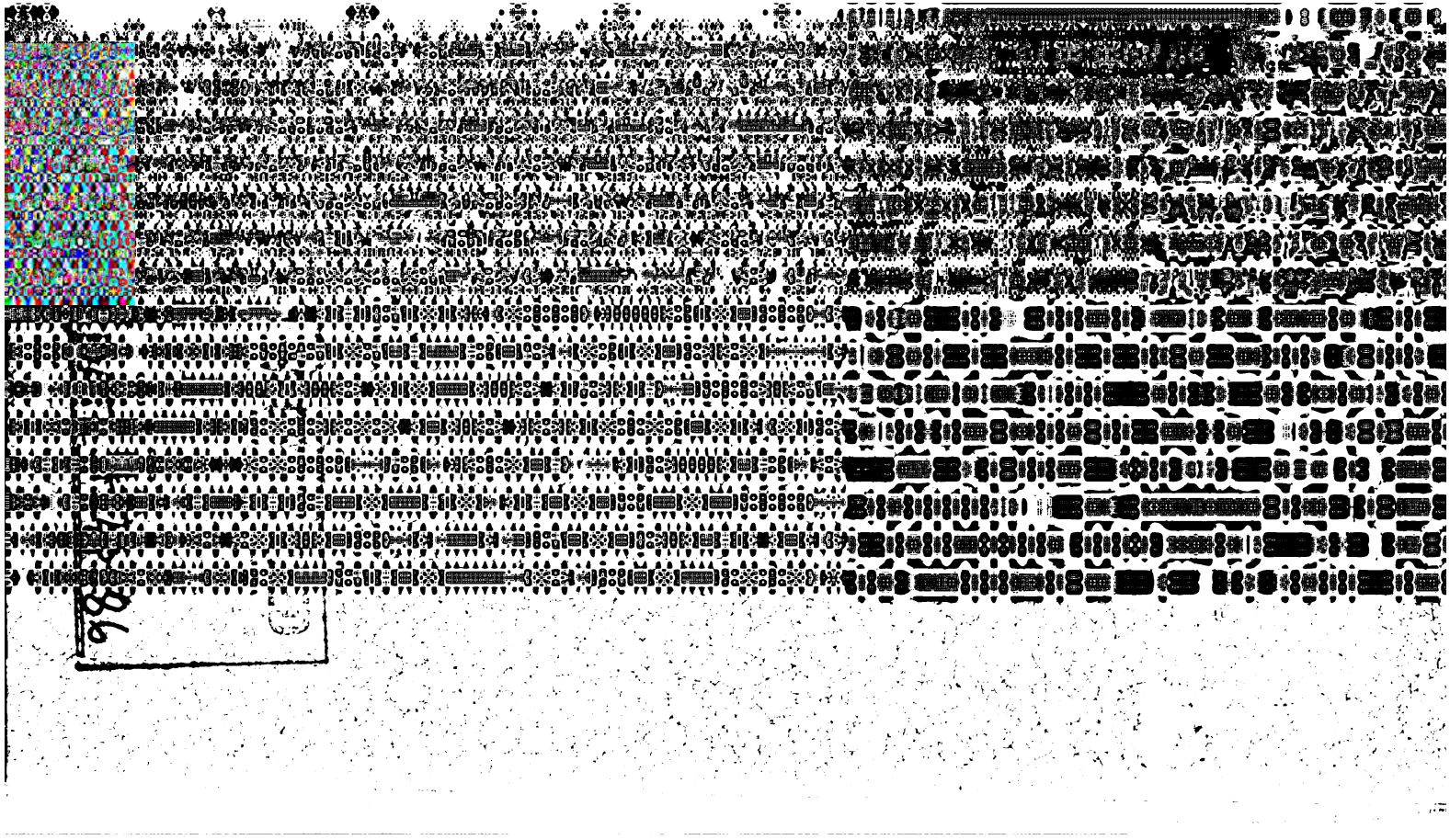

Greece Description

TRAVELS

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY,

UNDERTAKEN

BY ORDER OF LOUIS XVI.

AND

WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE OTTOMAN COURT;

BY

C. S. SONNINI,

MEMBER OF SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SOCIETIES,
OF THE SOCIETIES OF AGRICULTURE OF PARIS,
AND OF THE OBSERVERS OF MEN.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

Illustrated by Engravings,

AND

A MAP OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

VOL. I.

Mores multorum vidit et urbes.
Hor.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. N. LONGMAN AND O. REES, PATERNOSTER-ROW,

1801.

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LET

LIST OF THE PLATES

CONTAINED IN THE SEPARATE VOLUME.

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—— II. Firman of Sultan ABDOUL ACHMET, Emperor of the Turks, delivered to C. S. SONNINI.

—— III. Scorpion-spider, or *galéode araneoïde*, of the natural size.

—— IV. No. 1. Sea-serpent.
No. 2. Fangri, a fish.
No. 3. Calamary, a polype.

PLATE V.

PLATE V. Three Fiſhes.
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No. 2. Skatari.
No. 3. Cabrilla.
—— VI. Dreſs of the women of the Iſland of ARGENTIERA.

☞ *The Binder is directed to arrange the Plates in a ſeparate Volume, according to their numerical order.*

ADVERTISEMENT.

ERRATA.

VOL. I.

☞ Many of the following being typographical errors that may affect the ſenſe, the Reader is requeſted to mark them with a pen or pencil, before he enters on the work.

Page 38 Line 5, *for* lies *read* lie
45 —— 20, *dele* and
58 —— 6, *for* thoſe *read* theſe
88 —— 8, *for* but dry *read* but when dry
90 —— 17, *for* appendage *read* appanage
94 —— 8, and 10, *for* there *read* here
100 —— 26, *for* replaces *read* ſupplies the place of
119 —— 16, *for* tunney *read* tunny
189 —— 2, *d le* from view
196 —— 25, *for* wall-nut *read* walnut
213 —— 25, *for* empiriſm *read* empiriciſm
216 —— 26, *for* than *read* when
254 —— 13, *for* mormylus *read* mormyrus
271 —— Note* *for* Scuilla maritima *read* Scilla maritima
273 —— 21, *for* appendage *read* inheritance
295 —— 13, *for* cannon *read* cannons
297 —— 5, *dele* then
311 —— 15, *for* St. Irena *read* St. Irene
312 —— 2, *for* appendage *read* appanage
390 —— 11, *for* dollars *read* piaſtres
391 —— 14, *for* orchis *read* orchiſes

Note. Throughout Chapter III. we have conſtantly rendered the word *ſauterelles* by *graſshoppers*, which, as is well known, are winged inſects of a very devouring nature; but, on reconſideration, we are much inclined to think that the Author means *locuſts*, from the length of the flights which he deſcribes theſe inſects to have taken.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of the following "*Travels in Greece and Turkey*," being already known to the Public by his Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt, two tranſlations of which appeared in our language in the year 1799, it only remains for us to premiſe that theſe ſheets may juſtly be conſidered as a continuation of his itinerary. In his former work, he promiſed to preſent to the world an account of the other countries which he had ſubſequently viſited; he has now performed

his engagement, and in ſuch a manner as to induce us to preſume that thoſe who have felt themſelves gratified in travelling with him over EGYPT, will experience no leſs ſatisfaction in accompanying him in his tour through GREECE and TURKEY.

Endowed with a ſolid underſtanding, and a warm and brilliant imagination, SONNINI enlivens his journal by the variety of his deſcriptions, and neglects not to bring forward the contraſt inceſſantly preſented in GREECE by the magnificence of Nature, the poverty of the inhabitants, the mildneſs of the climate, and the cruelty of the plunderers who devaſtate thoſe beautiful countries. His narrative is interſperſed with hiſtorical anecdotes which recall to mind the enthuſiaſtic heroiſm of the knights of RHODES, the ſubtile activity of the Greeks, and the deſtructive policy of the Ottomans. The

trader will here find every information that can be uſeful to him for rivalling the indefatigable induſtry of the French; the naturaliſt will meet with curious obſervations on ſubmarine volcanoes, which produce new iſlands in the ſea of the LEVANT, as well as on animals, plants, and minerals, hitherto little known or imperfectly deſcribed; the ſtateſman will acquire intereſting ideas relative to politics and government; and the moraliſt will pay a juſt tribute to the writer, who conſtantly manifeſts an ardent zeal for virtue, a generous pity for misfortune, and an honeſt indignation againſt tyranny and all the crimes which it engenders.

LONDON, July the 20th, 1801.

INTRODUCTION.

EUROPE attentive, and the EAST aſtoniſhed, were looking with eyes full of curioſity and inquietude towards EGYPT, which FRANCE covered with her legions, and with the fertile reſources of her genius, with combatants as well as with artiſts and men of ſcience. A bold project, executed with the rapidity of the thought which had conceived it; vaſt combinations, ſupported by all the means of a great power; a new plan of colonization, the advantages of which are inappreciable; the impure ſeat of barbariſm and of the moſt fanatic ignorance, on the point of becoming the brilliant theatre of civilization and of the arts; the enemy's poſſeſsions in INDIA threatened; a ſort of diſmemberment of

an ill-consolidated empire; the commerce of the LEVANT on the eve of changing its face, and of taking a new direction—every thing contributed to render the expedition to EGYPT a subject of astonishment to some, and of mistrust to others.

This general attention promised a favourable reception to works which, in describing EGYPT, not from books, but from observations made on the places themselves, in journies undertaken solely for the purpose of collecting them, should fix the state of that country, at the moment of the enterprise of the French, and present a statement of the information acquired previously to their arrival. It is, no doubt, to circumstances so favourable that my "*TRAVELS IN UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT*" have owed their success, rather than to the manner in which they were written. We were certain of exciting interest by

the

the picture of a country become the object of every converſation, of every idea; and the Public were diſpoſed to judge with indulgence of the manner and colouring, in favour of the ſubject.

The traveller who ſhould preſent himſelf with an account of his excurſions and reſearches in EGYPT, might expect favour, if to the ſlighteſt habit of obſervation, he ſhould add a ſufficiently large portion of that reſpect which every writer owes to good taſte and to the Public, not to ſhock both by a forgetfulneſs of propriety, futility of details, aridity of ſtyle, ſtiffneſs of narration, and, above all, by a poſitive and diſdainful tone, which impoſes only on ignorance, and which is itſelf the criterion of mediocrity; defects which writers do not always endeavour to avoid, and againſt which one cannot too ſtrongly exclaim.

The honourable reception of my work reſpecting EGYPT has ſurpaſſed my hopes. It has not been confined to my own country; foreigners have participated in the ſame indulgence*. This, to my feelings, is the ſweeteſt recompenſe of long labours of no very recent date, which a love for the ſciences, and a wiſh to render myſelf uſeful, induced me to undertake, the only one that I am ambitious of, the only one too that I have obtained. This alſo, in my opinion, is encouragement the moſt powerful and the moſt flattering; and I have conſidered as an obligation, that it impoſed on me, to publiſh my other Travels, which political phenomena, whoſe commotions change the face of empires, have decided me to draw from my port-

* Two Engliſh tranſlations of my *TRAVELS IN EGYPT* have appeared in LONDON; the one in three volumes 8vo. and the other in one volume 4to.

folio,

folio, whence they would not otherwiſe have been taken.

Other countries, in the vicinity of EGYPT, are perhaps, like it, on the eve of experiencing a criſis which will cauſe them to aſſume a new aſpect. The Ottoman government, like an immenſe and ſhapeleſs coloſſus, placed on a baſe of clay, ſeems ready to fall, and GREECE, which it cruſhes with its inſupportable weight, muſt ere long, according to every appearance, if not reſume her ancient attitude, at leaſt break her chains, and occupy a rank among other nations, in the number of which her ancient and complete ſlavery prevented her from being reckoned. Whatever may be the new and inevitable deſtinies of a people formerly famous, the Public will not be ſorry to know what they were at the moment of their deliverance and regeneration,

and

and to repreſent to themſelves the places which will be the theatre of it, as they were formerly that of memorable events.

A deſcription of ſome parts of ASIA and ancient GREECE, which might afford a knowledge of their climate, their ſoil, their productions, their natural hiſtory, their preſent ſtate of decay, their inexhauſtible reſources of amelioration, and the picture of the manners, the cuſtoms, and the genius of the nations that inhabit them; which might offer a curious compariſon between their ſituation a few centuries ago, and that in our days; which, in a word, might, by means of reſtauration in their agriculture and in their commerce, unfold their claims to a more proſperous condition, was therefore a work not deſtitute of intereſt.

And when Peace, too long baniſhed from the earth, yielding at length to the

the wishes of nations, is descending from Heaven, and preparing to close the deep wounds which afflict the human race *; when, through her celestial influence, Guilt is disappearing with Want and Calamity, her melancholy and frightful companions; when Virtue is recovering her energy, and Talent her activity; when the sources of public prosperity, entirely dried up, are going to resume their course of felicity, and revive industry and commerce; when, in short, the want of repairing a time lost for happiness, and mournfully consumed in agitations and misfortune, of seeking in useful speculations, in an active and honourable labour, the forgetfulness of so many ills, and the indemnification of accumulated losses; when this general want is going to

* This introduction was written at the moment of the general armistice, concluded between the French and Imperial armies.

direct

direct to foreign countries the combinations of commerce, the Public will, doubtleſs, conſider as a picture very well calculated to favour theſe views, the indication of the places which preſent certain advantages to a kind of traffic that may be eſtabliſhed with much eaſe and little coſt.

Under theſe conſiderations, the work which I now publiſh has no fewer claims than the *Travels in Egypt* to attention and indulgence. If, notwithſtanding the number of travellers who have preceded me in that country, my account has been diſtinguiſhed, I may venture to expect the ſame ſucceſs for this; although it appears after productions no leſs numerous on the ſame ſubject, and among which are likewiſe to be found ſome much to be commended.

My *Travels in Greece and Turkey* are, like thoſe in Egypt, the fruit of near

two

two years of obſervation, and I preſent them with the greater confidence, as I have beſtowed the ſame pains in digeſting them.

It is more particularly in the Iſlands of the ÆGEAN SEA that I have directed my reſearches, in that multitude of groups of lands and rocks, ſcattered without order in the middle of this ſea, as an eternal monument of its conqueſt over the continent. Divided by the ancients into CYCLADES and SPORADES, denominations at preſent forgotten, they are at this day known under the general deſignation of ISLANDS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO. Although I have not viſited them all, the rather long ſtay which I made in ſome of them, the intercourſe that I had with men who inhabited them, or were perfectly acquainted with them, the information that I acquired in the ſame countries,

tries, have enabled me to collect certain particulars reſpecting each of them, and to ſpeak of them with preciſion.

The Iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, moſt of which are remarkable for the fertility and the beauty of their ſoil, celebrated in antiquity, and famed for having given birth to great men, are ſtill at this day important points of eſtabliſhment, communication, or commerce. We have a great intereſt in being well acquainted with them; and I am of opinion, that my work will leave nothing to be wiſhed for in that reſpect. This, at leaſt, is the taſk which I have impoſed on myſelf, and which I have endeavoured to accompliſh.

We had already ſome general deſcriptions of the Iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO; one of the moſt extenſive is that of DAPPER; it is the work of a geographer who deſcribes

deſcribes what he has not ſeen, and only by copying what others had written before him. TOURNEFORT, that immortal man, full of ſcience and taſte, and whom every traveller, who publiſhes his accounts, ought to take for a model, has likewiſe deſcribed, but with a different pencil from DAPPER, theſe ſame Iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO of the LEVANT. But ſince the travels of the French naturaliſt, as well as ſince the deſcription of DAPPER, they no longer have the ſame appearance. The change of maſters in ſome, the conſequences of tyranny in all, time and other circumſtances, have introduced differences between former accounts and the narrative which I now preſent. Beſides, I ſhall here repeat what I have already ſaid on the ſubject of my Travels in EGYPT, that it is impoſsible for the ſame man to obſerve every thing; the one collects what eſcaped him by whom he

was

was preceded; and, in ſhort, in like manner as painters have their particular *ſtyle* in repreſenting the ſame ſubject, each obſerver has alſo his manner of ſeeing and deſcribing what he has ſeen; ſo that the ſame object may be perceived under different points of view, and the ſame circumſtance be differently related by ſeveral perſons, and ſtill be intereſting.

The form of narrative, indiſpenſable in Travels acroſs countries little known, that which moſt attaches the reader to the fate of the travellers, whom the paſsion of diſcoveries induces to run hazards and dangers, that which I have almoſt always employed in my work reſpecting EGYPT, will not be conſtantly followed in this. The nature of the ſurface of land and water over which I paſſed, in every direction and at various times, affords room only for ſhort and dangerleſs excurſions,

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the account of which cannot excite the intereſt inſpired by travels of greater length and abounding more with difficulties. On the other hand, having frequently had occaſion to return as I went, and to reviſit the ſame countries, an uninterrupted relation would neceſſarily lead to tireſome repetitions. I have therefore reſolved to ſpeak of the places as they occur on my route, and as if I had followed the order of their poſition on the chart, omitting the croſs and retrograde trips which I made, in fact, for the purpoſe of viſiting them in ſucceſsion.

A motive, ſtill more powerful, would have been ſufficient to determine me to interrupt ſometimes the order of my narrative: it is that of truth. I have juſt ſaid that I had not myſelf ſeen every thing; and, though the reader may rely on the information which I have col-

lected reſpecting a few iſlands where I have not landed, the firſt of all obligations, for a traveller, being fidelity and exactneſs in his accounts, I ſhall take good care not to follow the example of a modern writer, who has filled two volumes with the details of a journey which he had not performed, and who has not even omitted a crowd of minute circumſtances, by which the narration aſſumes every appearance of reality. However, I ſhall give my itinerary whenever it ſhall afford any intereſting matter. This plan, which I have adopted, becauſe it has appeared to me the moſt ſuitable, will, methinks, diffuſe in my work a variety of form and ſtyle, which cannot but prevent a too uniform tint of monotony, and occaſion it to be read with greater pleaſure.

It is not, however, to the Iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO that my excurſions

have been limited and that my obſervations will be confined: the large and beautiful Iſland of CANDIA, in which I made ſeveral journies, ſome parts of TURKEY in ASIA MINOR, MACEDONIA, and the MOREA, have been the object of my peregrinations, as they will be the ſubject of my ſtory. In a word, I ſhall relate all that I have ſeen, all that I have learned reſpecting thoſe different countries; and I have, in this reſpect, followed the advice of the French philoſopher, whom we are always fond of reading again and again, and quoting, becauſe, without bewildering himſelf in abſtractions, he leads, by beaten paths, and with ingenuous and admirable ſagacity, to the knowledge of the vices of ſociety, and lays open all the receſſes of the human heart. "*We want,*" ſays MONTAIGNE, "*topographers, who* "*might give us a particular account of the* "*places where they have been — I would*

" *have every one write what he knows, and*
" *as much as he knows, not in that way*
" *only, but on all other ſubjects**."

The chart which is annexed to my book, is one of the handſomeſt and moſt complete that has been conſtructed of that extent of ſea and land, which is uſually diſtinguiſhed by the name of the LEVANT. To my own nautical and geographical obſervations, I have added thoſe of the ſeamen, travellers, and geographers, the moſt modern and the moſt eſteemed; and, in order to give an idea of the pains which I have taken to render this chart as minute and correct as poſsible, it will be ſufficient for me to remark that I have employed, for the northern part of EGYPT, the particular chart of Lake MENZALEH, which an

* *Eſſais*, Book i, Chap. iii.

able

able officer of artillery, the General of Diviſion ANDREOSSY, Inſpector-General of the corps of artillery, has very recently publiſhed, at the end of two excellent memoirs, reſpecting ſome points of LOWER EGYPT*.

Nor to this alone has the aſsiſtance which I have received from General ANDREOSSY been confined; he has been ſo kind as to communicate to me, and to permit me to add to my chart the manuſcript plan, which he himſelf took of the part of the coaſt of EGYPT comprehended between DAMIETTA and ROSETTA; ſo that this extent of the ſhores of the MEDITERRANEAN, hitherto thrown on our charts, as at random, and with

* Mémoire ſur le Lac Menzaleh, d'après la Reconnoiſſance faite en Vendémiaire, an 7.— Mémoire ſur la Vallée des Lacs de Natron, et celle du Fleuve ſans eau, d'après la Reconnoiſſance faite les 4, 5, 6, 7, et 8 Pluviôſe, an 7.—PARIS, DIDOT aîné, an 8.

which

which it never was more important to us to be well acquainted, is that which is traced with the greateſt exactneſs and preciſion; thanks to the attention of a diſtinguiſhed ſoldier, who, amid the terrible agitations of war, has found means to fix in the camp the timid Sciences, ſcared by the din of arms, and to join to the dazzling, but enſanguined laurels of valour, the more modeſt, but fruitful olive, with which they encircle the brow of thoſe who welcome them, and whom they are fond of loading with favours*.

Travels in GREECE at firſt preſent to the mind the idea of reſearches reſpecting monuments of antiquity. The rea-

* General *Andréoſſy* has alſo juſt publiſhed a very important work, under the title of HISTOIRE DU CANAL DU MIDI, *ou* CANAL DE LANGUEDOC. 1 vol. 8vo. Paris. *Buiſſon*, Rue Hautefeuille.

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der, expects to find in them the description of those splendid edifices which constituted the glory of ancient GREECE, the drawing of some tomb, of some urn, of some antique utensil, the impression of medals, the copy of inscriptions. Observations of this nature are foreign to my book; travellers now have indulged themselves in them with success, and I could have done no more than repeat what had been said before me by learned antiquaries, whose knowledge, in that line, I am far from attaining. But a work which would surpass all that has been published on the subject of the history and monuments of GREECE, is that of the man of learning the most distinguished, the most versed in Greek literature, the celebrated DANSSE DE VILLOISON, if he would determine to bring to light the precious materials which he has collected on the spot, a work which would

would itself be a literary monument worthy of the brilliant days of GREECE, and of the reputation of the author, to which, nevertheless, it could make no addition.

My most sanguine wishes will be accomplished, if my new labours succeed in acquiring the approbation of an enlightened Public. This is the object of all my ambition; well satisfied, and even completely happy if I be permitted to attain it!

Sit mea sedes utinam senectæ;
Sit modus lasso maris, et viarum,
Militiæque.

HOR. Book ii.

TRAVELS

TRAVELS

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY.

CHAPTER I.

A curſory view of Egypt.—*The Author, on his return from* Upper Egypt, *makes a very ſhort ſtay at* Alexandria.—*Compariſon between* Egypt *and* Greece, *between the Copts and the Greeks.—Greek women.—Paradoxes of* M. de Pauw.—*Approaching change in the political ſituation of the Greeks.—Dangers of revolutions.*

I HAD juſt ſpent two years in travelling over one of the moſt famous countries of antiquity, that in which the arts have diſplayed the greateſt efforts, and ſtruggled with moſt advantage againſt time, that which they have, with aſtoniſhing profuſion, covered with all the works calculated to produce and maintain fertility on a ſoil, whoſe riches are as much a conqueſt of human induſtry, as a gift of

nature. EGYPT, independently of the intereſt and the noble curioſity inſpired by the ſtill-impoſing ruins of its ancient magnificence, will always, in the eyes of the well-informed man, be a portion of the globe very important from the excellence of its ſoil, the ſalubrity of its climate, and its geographical poſition.

And when our age ſhall be for poſterity a point of antiquity, hiſtory will preſent, as another ſubject of aſtoniſhment and admiration, the enterpriſe of a powerful and generous people, who, under the direction of a great leader, a man of genius, were deſirous that EGYPT ſhould become their new domain, and their richeſt and moſt flouriſhing colony: a vaſt and bold plan, alternately the object of praiſe and blame, to which were wanting, to inſure its ſucceſs, only circumſtances more fortunate, and perhaps a few preliminary combinations, but the end of which was a certain and incalculable increaſe of the trade and reſources of FRANCE*.

On my return from UPPER EGYPT, I arrived, for the third time, at ALEXANDRIA.

* I have ſet forth the numerous advantages, the neceſſary reſult of the peaceable poſſeſſion of *Egypt*, in my *Travels* in that country, which I publiſhed laſt year.

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The extreme circumſpection which Europeans were there forced to employ in all their proceedings, no longer promiſed me any new reſearches. Accordingly I ſoon thought of quitting an encloſure of ſands and ruins, the barren habitation of ignorance and barbariſm, which the traders of EUROPE did not occupy without being a prey to continual apprehenſions, and expoſed to frequent dangers, as their veſſels were to ſhipwreck in the only bad harbour that was open to them. I had ſtripped myſelf of the long and ample garments in uſe in the EAST, and which I had worn in the courſe of my travels in EGYPT, in order to reſume the French uniform, in which I found myſelf at firſt very uneaſy. I long regretted a dreſs, not ſo light indeed, but certainly more noble and more decent, and at the ſame time better calculated for preſerving health, becauſe, not compreſſing any part of the body, it leaves full liberty to its movements and inflexions, as well as to the circulation of the blood and humours, and maintains the ſuppleneſs and ſtrength of the muſcles and fibres.

My journey, ſtrictly ſpeaking, terminated at ALEXANDRIA. Having ſailed from FRANCE on the 26th of April 1777, on board the ATA-

LANTE frigate, which was ordered to viſit all the ports of the LEVANT and of BARBARY, I was to follow the ſame deſtination; but ſubſequent inſtructions changed this deſtination, and occaſioned me to quit the ſhip at ALEXANDRIA, in order to travel in EGYPT; ſo that, my freſh inſtructions not extending beyond this journey, I might, after having accompliſhed it, return to my country. This was my firſt project; but I had before me celebrated countries, which the ſciences honoured, which the arts embelliſhed, which gave birth to crowds of heroes and great men, and the hiſtory of which furniſhes the moſt intereſting part of our ſtudy, in like manner as their maſter-pieces are ſtill the admiration and example of thoſe who have preſerved a taſte for true beauty. The ſea of GREECE is ſeen to ſpread its waves, whoſe expanſion is retarded and oppoſed by an immenſe number of iſlands, on the inclined ſhores of EGYPT; a ſpace rather ſhort ſeparates the two countries on which Antiquity prides herſelf; and, after having viſited that which paſſes for the cradle of the arts and ſciences, and from which the Greeks derived a part of their knowledge, I reſolved to ſee alſo the country which may be called

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the cradle of the graces and of good taſte. There, a burning climate does not, as in EGYPT, dry up a ſoil which ceaſes to produce, as ſoon as active induſtry ceaſes to cultivate it, and cover it with an abundant moiſture. There, we ſee not thoſe vaſt, ſandy, and arid plains, thoſe naked and heated rocks, forſaken by nature, and which man does not traverſe without conſiderable difficulty and danger. That frightful nakedneſs by which habitable EGYPT will ever be circumſcribed and confined, disfigures not the land of GREECE. There, the temperature is mild, the mountains are covered by foreſts, the atmoſphere is cooled by rains, the vallies are watered by numerous ſtreams, and the ſoil may be adapted to ſeveral kinds of culture.

If, from the compariſon of the phyſical ſtate of the two countries we paſs to that of the men who inhabit them, we ſhall find no reſemblance but in the deſpotiſm by which they were both enſlaved. The Copt or the native of EGYPT, whoſe character partakes of the dryneſs and rudeneſs of the climate, is ſhort and heavy; his head is big, but empty; his face is broad and flat; his complexion is ſallow and dark; and his countenance is mean. His diſpoſition is gloomy and melancholy;

lancholy; his treachery is the more dangerous, as it is, in a manner, more concentered; having no taſte for the arts, no flight of curioſity leads him to inſtruction; ſedentary, becauſe he has no vivacity in his mind, he ſeeks not to be acquainted with what ſurrounds him; lazy and ſlovenly, clowniſh and ignorant, unfeeling and ſuperſtitious, he has no longer any remembrance, nor even any trace remaining, of the greatneſs of his anceſtors.

What a difference between this nation entirely degenerated, and that which ſtill inhabits the beautiful countries of GREECE! Under a pure ſky, in a wholeſome, temperate atmoſphere, impregnated with the ſweeteſt emanations, on a ſoil which nature decks with flowers, and clothes with the verdure of an eternal ſpring, or which may be enriched with crops of every ſort, or with delicious fruits, we muſt expect, among the men, to meet only with amenity of manners and ſweetneſs of diſpoſition. I am ſpeaking of the men whoſe generations there ſucceed each other without interruption; for the ignorant and untractable uſurper may, by his ſtupid ferocity, pollute the moſt happy climate, the moſt ſmiling country; and ages are required

for their influence to temper, in a perceptible manner, the rudeneſs of his inclinations.

The man of theſe charming parts of GREECE is of a handſome ſtature; he carries his head high, his body erect, or rather inclined backward than forward; he is dignified in his carriage, eaſy in his manners, and nimble in his gait; his eyes are full of vivacity; his countenance is open, and his addreſs agreeable and prepoſſeſſing; he is neat and elegant in his clothing; he has a taſte for dreſs, as for every thing that is beautiful; active, induſtrious, and even enterpriſing, he is capable of executing great things; he ſpeaks with eaſe, he expreſſes himſelf with warmth; he is acquainted with the language of the paſſions, and he likewiſe aſtoniſhes by his natural eloquence; he loves the arts, without daring to cultivate them, under the brazen yoke which hangs heavy on his neck; ſkilful and cunning in trade, he does not always conduct himſelf in it with that frankneſs which conſtitutes its principal baſis; and if we ſtill find in modern GREECE many of the fine qualities which do honour to the hiſtory of ancient GREECE, it cannot be denied that Superſtition, the child of Ignorance and Slavery, greatly tarniſhs their luſtre; and we alſo diſcover in their

diſpoſition that fickleneſs, that pliability, that want of ſincerity, in ſhort, that artful turn of mind which borders on treachery, and of which the Greeks of antiquity have been accuſed*.

But this obliquity of character fortunately does not extend, or at leaſt is very much weakened, among the women of the ſame countries. The Greek females are, in general, diſtinguiſhed by a noble and eaſy ſhape, and a majeſtic carriage. Their features, traced by the hand of Beauty, reflect the warm and profound affections of Senſibility; the ſerenity of their countenance is that of dignity, without having its coldneſs or gravity; they are amiable without pretenſion, decent without ſourneſs, charming without affectation. If, to ſuch brilliant qualities, we add elevation of ideas, warmth of expreſſion, thoſe flights of ſimple and ingenuous eloquence which attract and faſcinate, a truly-devoted attachment to perſons beloved, exactneſs and fidelity in their duties, we ſhall have ſome notion of theſe privileged beings,

* Every one is acquainted with that famous line which paints ſo well the character of the Greeks:

"*Timeo Danaos, ac dona ferentes.*"

with

with whom Nature, in her munificence, has embelliſhed the earth, and who are not rare in GREECE. There it is that the genius of the artiſts of antiquity would ſtill have the choice of more than one model. Mine is in my heart; and if the ſketch which I trace of her is ſtill far ſhort of the original, if the fiery touches which are imprinted on my ſoul, ſeem to be extinguiſhed on my picture, it is to regret, to affliction, to inquietude, to hope, to the different ſenſations which are blended and contending within me, that it muſt be imputed, rather than to the faintneſs of my colouring. O thoughts alternately delightful and tormenting! O recollections dear and painful!.....But let us drop a pen glowing with the moſt impaſſioned ſentiments, it would, with difficulty, find favour in the eyes of whoſoever has a ſoul parched up; and, unfortunately, our age has afforded but too many proofs of ſullen and cruel inſenſibility.

What I have juſt ſaid on the ſubject of the modern Greeks, is quite contrary to what M. DE PAUW has written of them in his *Recherches Philoſophiques ſur les Grecs*. It would be extraordinary if ſuch an oppoſition of ſentiment ſhould not be met with between the obſerver who reports what he has ſeen, and

and the man of ſcience, who, buried in his cloſet, pretends to obſerve better what he does not ſee. Guided by a rage, by no means *philoſophical*, of rejecting facts that would be in contradiction with the ſyſtem which he has formed for himſelf, M. DE PAUW admits thoſe only by which he can ſupport it, at the ſame time accompanying them with arguments, ſpecious indeed, but which betray the labour that they have coſt, rather than the art with which they have been arranged.

After having ſet aſide every thing that is not favourable to his opinion, after having thrown out the ſevereſt criticiſm on eſtimable authors, M. DE PAUW opens a free career to his imagination, and, by ſuſpicious proofs and bold aſſertions, but preſented as inconteſtable truths, he ſtrives to deſtroy all received opinions, and obſervations the leaſt to be doubted. By his account, expreſſions cannot be found to deſcribe the abaſement into which the Greeks are fallen in our days, and into which they fell through their own fault. "This nation," ſays he, "returned to child-
"hood, is now no more than a vile burden
"to the earth, the opprobrium of their pro-
"genitors, whoſe tombs they tread under
"foot without even being acquainted with
"them."

"them." It is impoſſible to be more cruel, nor at the ſame time more unjuſt. The women too have their ſhare in theſe exaggerations of ill-humour and ſpirit of ſyſtem. If we muſt believe the ſame writer, we ſhould in vain look for beauty in GREECE, where, however, according to him, it formerly ſhone but very rarely. "At preſent," adds he, "we ſhould find there, in general, none but "women abſolutely inferior to thoſe of the "north of EUROPE, whether as to regu-"larity of features, or freſhneſs of com-"plexion and elegance of form: and, in "ſome of the countries of GREECE in par-"ticular, we ſhould ſee none but women "who ſeem to be unfavoured by nature." Theſe are erroneous opinions, which it is not uncommon to meet with in the works of M. DE PAUW; and ſuch outrages againſt a nation towards which we have contracted the habit of intereſt, blaſphemies of this ſort againſt beauty, are ſo many ſpots which would diſfigure the moſt philoſophical inquiries.

This amiable and intereſting people of GREECE are bent under the very heavy yoke of the ſtern and proud Muſſulman; their ſlavery, like that of the deſcendants of the ancient

ancient Egyptians, is abſolute and of long ſtanding. The Copts lived in the brutalized ſtupor of a debaſed condition. Never could they have dreamt of breaking their chains, had not the French undertaken their deliverance; and the Greeks, although poſſeſſing more energy and means, will never themſelves ſhake off fetters, which, notwithſtanding, are to them odious. Should an enterpriſing genius, the friend of glory and of his country, riſe up in the midſt of them, and offer to lead them to the conqueſt of liberty, he would find it difficult to draw round him numerous partiſans. Reduced to the ſimple character of leader of a few inſurgents, he would have to fight his own countrymen, and he would end by falling a victim to the treachery of ſome of them; ſo much does long ſlavery blunt energy, corrupt the qualities of the ſoul, and leave to the vices of weakneſs and abaſement alone freedom of action!

But ſhould foreign forces, ſufficiently impoſing to baniſh fears, which, in weak minds, are inſeparable from the uncertainty of ſucceſs, make their appearance, not with projects of invaſion, but as deliverers of GREECE, inſurrection

rection against tyranny would become general; national activity would display all its resources; cohorts of courageous combatants would be formed on all sides; intelligent and active mariners would cover the sea with fast-sailing vessels, which would rapidly carry succours and troops to all the points of the islands and coasts that would become those of the whole nation; all would second and bless their deliverers. The period when one of the finest countries of the globe, that which is the richest in precious recollections, shall be snatched from Ottoman despotism, is not perhaps far distant. The existence of that vast and monstrous empire of the Turks cannot be of long duration; its incoherent parts shake, and are on the point of falling to pieces; on every side Rebellion waves her standards; the authority of the chief of the empire, disowned and insulted without, scarcely extends beyond the walls of CONSTANTINOPLE; a domination, established on ignorance, cannot resist the contact of knowledge; it will be annihilated with the superstitious barbarism to which it owes its origin; and the most cruel and most improvident tyranny will no longer leave any other traces than that by which the life of

of all tyrants is followed, the execration of poſterity *.

I have juſt ſpoken of revolution, and it is not without trembling that my pen has traced this terrible word. Indeed, there is nothing but the exceſs of ſlavery by which a people are oppreſſed, that can, in future, juſtify the idea of overthrowing their government. Who would dare, in fact, to adviſe again thoſe political convulſions, a thouſand times more frightful and more diſaſtrous than thoſe with which Nature ſometimes terrifies mankind? Who, without the moſt powerful motives, would dare to expoſe a nation, naturally reſt-

* Here too *M. de Pauw* and I are in manifeſt contradiction. He blames the elegant author of the *Voyage Pittoreſque de la Grèce*, for having urged other nations to the emancipation of the Greeks, for having engraved, on the frontiſpiece of his book, that ſignal of vengeance againſt tyrants, *excriare aliquis*. He imputes to *M. de Choiſeul-Gouffier* the greateſt paradoxes; and, ſupporting himſelf by the teſtimony of ſome Greek monks, who, dreaming only of theology, have aſſured him that if their countrymen returned to liberty, the firſt uſe that they would make of it would conſiſt in undertaking a war of religion, he affirms that the idea of deliverance, impolitical in his eyes, can enter into the heads of none but thoſe who are unacquainted with the denſity of the darkneſs in which the mind of the modern Greeks is enveloped.—See the *Recherches Philoſophiques ſur les Grecs.*

leſs

ſtleſs and turbulent, to the ſhocks, to the ravages, to the ills inſeparable from thoſe great innovations in the body ſocial? In that country, at leaſt, we ſhould have nothing to regret, not even the appearance of repoſe which there reigns, and which, in truth, is only the abjection of misfortune and the ſleep of bondage. There, no violation of public faith, no infraction of the moſt ſacred engagements, would plunge into miſery and deſpair a crowd of unfortunate beings, whoſe complaints and cries have ſerved elſewhere only to embolden impudent plunderers. There, where property is often a claim to exactions, where commerce, agriculture, and induſtry, are no more than titles which expoſe to exceſſes and perſecutions, property and the arts cannot but be ſtrengthened and extended by expelling the barbarians who are their ſcourge; while in the moſt civilized countries of EUROPE, become the prey of a horde of ambitious triflers, every thing has been overthrown, confounded, and ſwallowed up.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER II.

Flouriſhing ſtate of the French trade in the Levant, *during the war of* 1778.—*Its total ruin, which has involved that of* Marſeilles. —*Cauſes of theſe misfortunes.—Reflections on this ſubject.—Order of the King and Firman of the Grand Signior tranſmitted to the Author.—The authority of the* Porte *null in* Egypt.—*Writing of the Turks; offices of their miniſters; manner in which buſineſs is conducted there; their writers; their paper.—Tranſlation of the Firman.—Departure from* Alexandria.—*Quails.—Birds.*

WAR, the miniſter of death and deſolation, had been kindled in EUROPE during my travels in AFRICA. Rival governments had armed the one againſt the other two nations calculated for mutual eſteem. The rupture between FRANCE and ENGLAND had, by ſome months, preceded my return to ALEXANDRIA; but no hoſtility was exerciſed in the ſeas of the LEVANT; the French there continued their trade as in the midſt of peace. A ſingle frigate from TOULON was ſufficient

for eſcorting thither in ſafety a convoy of ſixty or eighty ſail, and for protecting them againſt the attacks of any of the enemy's privateers, which ſcarcely ventured to cruiſe near the coaſt of ITALY, in the ſeas of CORSICA and SARDINIA, or in the canal of MALTA, but ſeldom ever durſt enter the ſea that waſhes the coaſts and iſlands of TURKEY. A number of veſſels, which had ſailed from the ports of PROVENCE, and were intended to be ſupported for three years at the expenſe of the Turks, whoſe merchandiſe they ſhipped, and whoſe money they brought back, at the ſame time that they formed a multitude of ſailors, had not relaxed their active and uſeful carrying-trade. In ſhort, if the rage for mutual deſtruction was ſpread on ſome points of the ocean, the blood of men ſtained not the waters of the moſt eaſtern part of the MEDITERRANEAN; and the French flag was flying there as in its own domain.

What unfortunate changes have happened to interrupt the courſe of ſo proſperous a commerce? What fatal influence has converted a ſituation ſo flouriſhing, and which its duration ſeemed to render unchangeable, into a ſeries of humiliations, into the total ruin of the trade of the LEVANT? By what

fatality has a nation, the old and faithful friend of FRANCE, which ceaſed not to ſurround her with confidence, with privileges, with prerogatives, appeared ſuddenly in the ranks of her enemies? Its ports, where the French poſſeſſed a preponderance almoſt excluſive, are ſhut againſt them; the *caravane** is annihilated, and the national flag is no longer acknowledged in the ſeas of which it enjoyed the empire.

And thou, whoſe origin goes back to the brilliant ages of GREECE, brilliant colony of the Phocæans, to whom the Gauls were indebted for a knowledge of the fine arts; thou, who, by thy ſchools and the urbanity of thy inhabitants, waſt for a long time the rival of ATHENS; thou, who gaveſt birth to the moſt ancient of known travellers, to PYTHEAS, a man of letters and a celebrated aſtronomer, who carried towards the North his taſte for obſervation, before the age of ALEXANDER†; thou, whom great men and

* Thus was called the carrying-trade which the French veſſels exerciſed in the ſeas of the LEVANT, at the expenſe of the Turks, and which was a ſource of riches for commerce, and of proſperity for the marine. Theſe veſſels were named *navires-caravaneurs*.

† That is to ſay, before the year 327.

great

great exploits rendered illuſtrious; thou, in ſhort, whom the moſt flouriſhing trade rendered, not long ſince, queen of the MEDITERRANEAN, MARSEILLES! what is become of thy luſtre? Thy riches, thy induſtrious activity, thy ſplendour, all has diſappeared: to peaceful commercial ſpeculations, to uſeful tranſactions of barter have ſucceeded the noiſy ſhock of the paſſions, the fury of diſcord, the firebrands of civil war; thy eſtabliſhments, thy work-ſhops, are forſaken or annihilated, and their ruin has involved that of the manufactories of LANGUEDOC, which furniſhed woollen cloths for the conſumption of the Orientals; thy numberleſs ſhips, with which the MEDITERRANEAN was covered, unmaſted and unrigged, and crowded into a port half choked up, are decaying in inaction; thy quays, formerly ſo full of buſtle, ſo tumultuous from the continual conveyance of the riches of the two Worlds, are deſerted; graſs clothes the pavement of thy ſtreets, in which was ſeen a crowd of buſy and laborious men; deſolation reigns within thy walls, ſtill tinged with the blood of ſeveral of thy inhabitants; and widows in tears, children in deſpair, recall in vain, by their ſighs and their ſobs, huſbands and parents

fallen under the axe of the executioner, or the poniard of the aſſaſſin.

The ſource of ſo many loſſes and calamities proceeds from general diſorganization, which, in a very ſhort ſpace of time, effected in FRANCE the diſſolution of the body ſocial, and converted the fineſt empire of the univerſe into an enſanguined theatre of diſorders, miſery, and confuſion. Since men have been found wicked enough, audacious enough, to accumulate ruins on a ſoil where every thing announced proſperity, order, and ſplendour; and to replace ſcenes the moſt magnificent and the moſt agreeable by images the moſt terrible and moſt afflicting, why ſhould we not have the courage to reproach them with their crimes? Men for ever deteſtable, who had only the rage and the tranſports of ambition without having its genius; who have not bluſhed to aſſume a power, I will not ſay too much above your capacity, you had none but that of impudence, yet which, you well knew, was to be in your hands only the power of doing miſchief; what account will you give of the flouriſhing ſtate in which you found FRANCE, and of the ſituation, truly deplorable, in which you have left her? What have you

privately

privately done with thoſe riches, with thoſe numerous advantages which we derived from our LEVANT trade? Under your frightful domination calamities alone have proſpered; every thing that was good, reſpectable, or uſeful, has been ſwallowed up. The policy of governments may change, and indeed changes but too frequently; but moral ideas are immutable and eternal; it is the forgetfulneſs of them, or rather their abſence from your heart that has cauſed you to plunge ſo rapidly into an abyſs of crimes, and errors, whence, by a moſt impetuous and impure overflow, you inundated FRANCE and the neighbouring countries, with violations of principles and rights the moſt ſacred, with exceſſes againſt humanity, with falſe combinations, with inconſiderate enterpriſes, with rapine, outrages, and diſorders. Your tyranny, the moſt heavy that ever oppreſſed mankind, and at the ſame time the moſt inſulting, becauſe you had eſtabliſhed it on a deriſive appearance of liberty, had enchained the moſt generous flights; and univerſal torpor had deprived genius of all ſpring, and virtue, of all energy. What time will it not require to repair your crimes? And

we ſhall not even be revenged by remorſe; of that you are not ſuſceptible.

A ſituation ſo deplorable would be hopeleſs in every other country except FRANCE; but, to the picture of her misfortunes, which we muſt ſtrive to forget, let us ſubſtitute the conſoling deſcription of her reſources: they are immenſe; and they will ſtill increaſe under the ſhade of the fructifying olive of peace. O Peace! may thy ſacred name be found in every mouth as in every heart! Daughter of Heaven! Proſperity, virtue, pure joy, induſtrious activity, every bleſſing accompanies thee; mayſt thou, reſplendent with this train of felicity, diffuſe thy favours and bounties over the deſolated land, which has been but too long moiſtened by the blood of men! Then, let us not doubt it, under a wiſe and enlightened government, ſtrong, but juſt, our country emerging from her long abjection, ſhall ſoon recover her brilliant and ancient advantages; we ſhall ſee every part of public economy ameliorated, and the trade of the LEVANT, more flouriſhing than ever, will again pour its treaſures into our beautiful ſouthern departments.

The

The advantages which I had enjoyed in my journey in EGYPT, were almoſt the ſame with reſpect to the new travels that I was going to undertake. In fact, although the ſpecial miſſion, with which I had been charged, was, as I have ſaid in the preceding chapter, nearly accompliſhed on my leaving EGYPT, I was ſtill the bearer of an order from the king which authorized me to prolong my travels, and extend my reſearches and obſervations into all the countries which I ſhould think likely to inſpire any intereſt; and it was enjoined to all the governors, intendants, and other agents of government in foreign parts, to protect and aſſiſt me with their means and credit; ſo that I ceaſed not to be conſidered as an envoy of the French government, travelling by order of the king.

On the other hand, the French ambaſſador at CONSTANTINOPLE had been charged by our miniſtry to procure me an order from the Grand Signior, which ſhould authorize me to viſit his vaſt domains. This *firman*, thus are called the ordinances of the PORTE, had reached me at CAIRO; and, indeed, it would there have been a very bad recommendation. The beys had rendered themſelves independent, or nearly ſo, of the Turkiſh

Emperor. The pacha, whom he maintained there, was no more than a phantom of authority that the chiefs of the Mamalûks cauſed to diſappear or be changed at their pleaſure. The brave and audacious MURAD already reigned in CAIRO as abſolute maſter; the will of that ſtern tyrant was there the ſole law, and the officer that the Sultan ſent thither, under the deriſive title of governor, lived there without power as without influence, and had no other reſource for maintaining himſelf in ſo precarious a ſituation, than thoſe of narrow and low minds, of fomenting diſſenſions between the beys, and of charging Diſcord with a taſk which he would not have dared to undertake himſelf; that is, of ſtopping the career of a violent and uſurping ambition.

The Turks were deſpiſed at the court of theſe foreigners, who, from the condition of ſlaves, paſſed to the abſolute government of EGYPT; leſs briſk in their movements, more grave in their gait, leſs ſkilful in managing a horſe, they were an object of pleaſantry and deriſion in the eyes of the young and ſpruce Mamalûks, of which the families of the princes, not long ago their equals, and ſince their maſters, were compoſed. Accordingly theſe

theſe ſame deſpots had no conſideration for the emperor of TURKEY, whom they regarded rather as an enemy importunate through a remnant of pretenſions, than as their ſovereign. To avail myſelf with MURAD Bey of any documents emanated from the government of CONSTANTINOPLE, would have been to call in queſtion his power, kindle his indignation and his anger, and expoſe myſelf to the ſudden effects of his paſſion*.

It was therefore, on my part, a neceſſary act of prudence to keep ſecret the document which inſured me the protection of the Grand Signior; it would not have failed to involve me in ſome difficulty, and to coſt me ſome exaction. I obtained from MURAD Bey himſelf recommendations more ſafe and more proper.

But, if this firman had been uſeleſs to me in EGYPT, it became of great ſervice to me

* In my work reſpecting *Egypt*, I have drawn the portrait of *Murad*, the only bey who found means to preſerve his authority ſo long; a tyrant uneducated and deſpotic, but become celebrated by the honour which he has had of fighting the French, and to whom we cannot deny much bravery, ſome military talents, and a few qualities of mind, which evince its elevation, ſuch as great liberality, with which he has contrived to attach to himſelf, and preſerve a number of partiſans.

in

in the new travels that I purpoſed to undertake. Although the *lands and ſeas of Egypt* only were mentioned in it, this ſign of protection was not, on that account, of leſs advantage to me in TURKEY; it procured me regard and attention on the part of the governors and private commandants. I never unrolled it in vain: at the ſight of it, the haughty pacha, the ſtern aga, and all thoſe ſubaltern tyrants who rend, rather than govern, the Ottoman empire, became tractable and obliging; they lifted it to their forehead in token of reſpect, and I ſeldom failed to obtain from them what I wiſhed. In the eyes of the multitude, I appeared an important perſonage; ſince their ſovereign condeſcended to concern himſelf about me; and by ſaving me from ſome unpleaſant incidents and embarraſſments, which I ſhould not have avoided without this ſort of taliſman of deſpotiſm, they conſidered me as entitled to their reſpect and conſideration.

Though the oriental languages are beginning to make ſome progreſs among us, and though many perſons are acquainted with Turkiſh writing, I have thought that people, in general, would not be diſpleaſed to ſee here the form of the ordinances iſſued by the

the Ottoman government, and I have caúſed my firman to be engraved. *(See Plate II.)* The Turks, as is well known, like the Arabs, write from right to left; they diſtinguiſh ten ſorts of characters in their writing; and they call *divouani* thoſe which are employed in the official papers of the divan.

The Turks write but little. The offices of their miniſters are not filled with a crowd of clerks, mutually cauſing each other reſtraint and diſtraction, nor encumbered by heaps of papers, which no one reads. Buſineſs is there tranſacted with the greateſt ſimplicity; correſpondence with men in office is very rare, and, with the exception of the emphatical amplifications of oriental etiquette, it is freed from uſeleſs and dull prolixity. When a perſon has any thing to aſk of the great, he prefers ſpeaking to writing, becauſe they liſten and anſwer otherwiſe than by inſignificant and common phraſes, which, being addreſſed to every body, ſuit no one, and evince as much the fatigue and ſometimes the indifference of him who pronounces them, as the folly of him who gives credit to them; becauſe, in ſhort, theſe ſame men in power, being ſecure from importunities and ſolicitations, are of eaſy acceſs.

On the other hand, where the generality of the inhabitants ſcarcely either trouble themſelves, or care to trouble themſelves, about public affairs, ambition is confined within a very narrow circle, and concentred among very few perſons. Accordingly the demands for employments are extremely rare; and, with the exception of ſome petitions preſented in the view of obtaining reparation for exactions or acts of injuſtice too common in the delegates of the PORTE, there are not delivered into its offices that prodigious quantity of memorials, petitions, and remonſtrances, which ambitious and buſtling intrigue multiplies on ſuch ſlight grounds and to ſo little purpoſe among us, and which, commonly, are calculated only to occaſion a loſs of time to thoſe who draw them up, as well as to thoſe who anſwer them.

The oriental writers do not place themſelves near à table. They are ſeated on a cuſhion, with their legs croſſed and turned in under their garments. They write on their knees, and they almoſt always have the long pipe in their mouth. The paper which they employ comes from EUROPE; but it is ſmoothed and glazed in TURKEY, in order that the reed pen, of which they make

make uſe, may glide with greater facility. My firman is written on a large ſheet of this glazed paper; it is twenty-nine inches in depth, by twenty in width*. At the top is the cypher of the Sultan ABDOUL ACHMET; at the bottom, the ſignature of the *reis effendi*, or miniſter for foreign affairs; and on the folds, different marks neceſſary to authenticate papers of this kind. I give, as a note, the tranſlation of it; for this I am indebted to JAUBERT, a young and learned profeſſor of oriental languages in PARIS. It muſt be obſerved that, for fear of giving umbrage to the Turks, always uneaſy reſpecting the intentions of travellers who viſit their country, I was preſented to the divan as a trader. Thus it was that in EGYPT the protection of the beys of CAIRO and of the Arabic princes was granted to me as to a phyſician; and this imaginary ægis, founded on the vulgar credulity of barbarous men, as much as on their wiſh to prolong their own exiſtence, was of no ſmall ſervice to me, and preſerved me from a multitude of embarraſſments and

* The *Paris* foot is equal to 12. 789 Engliſh inches.

dangers†.

dangers†. The ſea of the LEVANT being, as I have ſaid, abſolutely free, notwithſtanding

† TRANSLATION OF THE FIRMAN.

(Here is the Sultan's cypher.)

Moſt juſt, moſt noble, moſt great, moſt glorious, moſt reſpectable governor, who knows how to manage the moſt important affairs of this world, with intelligence and diſcernment, and whoſe ſuperior ſolicitude extends with wiſdom and benignity over the poor of the ſtate; pillar of the glorious empire, illuſtrious governor of *Egypt*, our fortunate vizir *Mohammed* paçha: may God increaſe his glory!

Moſt juſt of the cadis of Iſmaeliſm, treaſure of virtues and truths, deeply read in the laws and in religion, heir of the ſcience of the prophets and apoſtles, ſpecially loaded with the favours of the moſt high, learned cadi of *Cairo* in *Egypt*, may God increaſe his virtues!

Happy ſucceſſors of the cadis and princes, abundant mines of nobleneſs and virtues, who, in our fortunate name, govern the empire of the lands and ſeas of *Egypt*, may God increaſe their merits!

Lieutenants, leaders of troops, janizaries, and other commandants, may God increaſe their power, and raiſe them in dignity!

When this noble firman ſhall have reached you, know that:

The ambaſſador and the conſuls of the King of *France*, our powerful friend, the ſupport of the great of this world, the model of chriſtian princes (may his end be happy!) having cauſed to be repreſented to us that it would be expedient to grant to the merchants who wiſh to travel in the ſtates (well-guarded) of our glorious empire, ſupreme orders

ing the war between the principal maritime powers of EUROPE, I had no precaution to

orders for them to be therein treated with ſafety and protection, conformably to the treaties:

And a Frenchman, named *Sonnini*, who has the intention of repairing to *Cairo* in *Egypt*, having made known to us that he begs us to cauſe to be delivered an order iſſued by our ſublime *Porte* to all thoſe who exerciſe our authority over the lands or over the ſeas of *Egypt*, to the end that he may reſide there, or travel there freely, without fear or hindrance whatever:

And being deſirous that, agreeably to our intentions and our expreſs commendations, he ſhould be protected by our ſovereign orders, ſtamped with our noble ſeal,

We direct that:

When this order, iſſued by our ſublime *Porte*, ſhall have reached you, the aforeſaid Frenchman may freely travel over the lands and ſeas above-mentioned, dependent on our glorious empire; that he may at pleaſure enter them, leave them, or reſide in them, conforming himſelf in all things to our ſovereign orders, and that there ſhall be every where granted to him aid, ſuccour, and protection.

And to the end that the contents of theſe orders may leave you no doubt, we have graced them with our noble and eminent ſignature, to which you will give credit; we recommend it to you. Underſtand it thus.

Given in the beginning of Sefier, in the year of the hegira 1192 (February 1778, O. S.)

At CONSTANTINOPLE the well-guarded.

(*Tranſlated by Citizen* JAUBERT, *Turkiſh profeſſor in the ſpecial ſchool of Oriental languages, near the national library, fifth interpreter to the government.*)

take

take in the ſhort voyage which I had to perform; and as I had, beſides, no other object, but that of viſiting ſome of the countries of GREECE and of TURKEY, it was of little conſequence to me, whether I began my excurſions by one place or by another. I therefore availed myſelf of the firſt veſſel that was to ſail from the harbour of ALEXANDRIA; and, after having taken leave of my fellow-travellers in EGYPT, I embarked on board a Provençal polacre*, a *caravaneur*, laden with productions of EGYPT and ARABIA, on account of ſome Turkiſh merchants of the Iſland of CANDIA.

* A polacre is a ſmall veſſel with three maſts, which are pole-maſts, that is, conſiſting of a ſingle ſtick, without tops or croſs-trees, ſo that the top-gallant-ſails and topſails lower on the lower yard: which, in French, is called *amener en paquet* (lowering all together). This mode of rigging is advantageous, inſomuch as, in caſe of being caught in a ſquall, the ſails can be lowered all at once; but, indeed, it ſuits none but veſſels of no great burden, for the maſts of a large ſhip cannot be made of ſufficient ſtrength if they were formed only of a ſingle ſtick. Polacres are very much in uſe in the navigation of the *Mediterranean* Sea, where faſt-ſailing veſſels of a ſmall draught of water are more neceſſary than elſewhere, and where they have frequently to experience ſhort, but ſudden and heavy ſqualls.

We

We ſet ſail on the 17th of October, 1778, at ſeven o'clock in the morning, with a pleaſant breeze at eaſt; it ſoon carried us out of ſight of the hillocks, and of the famous pillar, which ſerve as land-marks on making ALEXANDRIA.

The war cauſed ſo little uneaſineſs in theſe ſeas, that the polacre, on board of which I was, carried no artillery; and, with the exception of my arms, there was not a ſingle piece on board.

In the ſmall quantity of proviſions which I had ſhipped, the moſt abundant ſort conſiſted of quails, taken alive in the environs of ALEXANDRIA. The extraordinary number of theſe birds which arrive in autumn on the coaſt of EGYPT, renders them, at that period, one of the moſt common diſhes. When, in our fields, we have ſeen quails with ſhort wings and tail, a round body, little calculated for cleaving the air, when we have ſeen them, I ſay, riſe heavily, and with difficulty take a low flight of ſhort duration, we are ſurpriſed to meet with them again on ſhores ſo diſtant, ſubject, like other birds of paſſage, to regular migrations; weaker than thoſe, quails alſo venture to make long journies: with an unſteady flight, they ſkim the

ſurface of the waters, avail themſelves of every point of repoſe afforded them by a ſea interſected by ſcattered lands, and ploughed by numbers of veſſels, and in this manner reach, from iſland to iſland and from veſſel to veſſel, the ſhore of EGYPT. But the flocks of theſe feeble and innocent travellers are far from arriving entire; an impetuous wind plunges them into the waves; the ſhelter and reſt which they ſeek with eagerneſs on the iſlands and on board ſhips, to them become occaſions of deſtruction. Man is every where to devour them; and when, after ſo many dangers and fatigues, they alight on a land on which they arrive from ſuch a diſtance to ſeek a mild temperature that our climates deny them, when at length folding their wings, which they would no longer have ſtrength to extend for ſome time, they are preparing to ſpread themſelves over fertile plains, and there enjoy, till the enſuing ſpring, the warmth of the atmoſphere and abundance of food, unfeeling and cruel man again makes his appearance, and, taking advantage of their ſtate of debility, which prevents them from running and flying, envelops them in nets and ſhuts them up without pity in cages, in order that they may be afterwards aban-

doned

doned to his voracity. Theſe cages, made in EGYPT, are of wicker; the top is of canvaſs, in order that the quails may not ſplit their head by raiſing themſelves vertically and with vivacity: a barbarous precaution, when we are waiting till it is convenient to put to death with our own hands innocent animals.

Other birds had freely taken up their quarters on our floating habitation, and animated its dry and inſipid monotony. Some ſparrows picked up on the deck the ſmall fragments of our meals; while the friſky wagtail*, of a familiarity more amiable, becauſe it beſpoke nothing impudent, by a continuance of ſkips and ſhort and quick flights, rid us of a part of the inſects by which we were incommoded. It ſeemed that theſe little winged navigators would have wiſhed to ſeek with us a more grateful ſoil, plains more agreeable than the melancholy and arid environs of ALEXANDRIA, and that they would have manifeſted their gratitude for the undiſturbed hoſpitality which they enjoyed among us.

* *Lavandière.* BUFFON, Hiſt. Nat. des Oiſ. et planche enluminée, No. 642. *Motacilla alba* LINN.——*Ang.* White wagtail.

But the very day after our departure, the wind having ſhifted to the weſt, and threatening a ſtorm, the ſort of open aviary which we had ſeen formed, diſappeared. Our feathered gueſts, doubtleſs, foreſeeing a violent agitation in the atmoſphere, took leave of us, and, favoured by the wind, they directed their flight towards the coaſt of SYRIA, or the Iſle of CYPRUS: we were, in fact, at no great diſtance from that iſland, the moſt eaſtern and one of the fineſt in the MEDITERRANEAN.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER III.

Poſition of the Iſland of Cyprus.—*Its names.*—*Henné.*—*Ruins of the Iſland of* Cyprus.—*Its mines.*—*Gold.*—*Copper.*—*Vitriol.*—*Iron.*—*Cryſtal.*—*Precious ſtones.*—*Jaſper.*—*Aſbeſtos.*—*Talc.*—*Plaſter.*—*Ochre.*—*Marine ſalt.*—*Agriculture.*—*Olive-trees.*—*Mulberry-trees.*—*Carob-trees.*—*Cotton.*—*Sugar-cane.*—*Coffee-tree.*—*Gardens.*—*Various ſpecies of corn.*—*Graſshoppers.*—*Madder.*—*Coloquintida.*—*Ladanum.*—*Soda.*—*Wood.*—*Wool.*—*Wine.*—Turkey *leather.*—*Cotton.*—*Manufactures.*—*Import-trade.*

PLACED in the vaſt gulf which terminates the MEDITERRANEAN to the eaſt, the Iſland of CYPRUS ſeems intended to ſecure the command of that ſea*. Towards the north, and at

* It is neceſſary to recall to mind here what I have announced in my Introduction. During travels, which conſiſted only of a ſeries of excurſions on lines of no great length, and croſſing each other inceſſantly, it would be to

at no conſiderable diſtance, are the winding coaſts of CARAMANIA, formerly CILICIA; thoſe of EGYPT, more remote, face it to the ſouth, and the ſhores of SYRIA, on which the MEDITERRANEAN ſtops, lies not far from it to the weſt†; the ancients even thought that it had made a part of that country, and that one of thoſe violent commotions of the globe, which we find at very diſtant periods in the hiſtory of ages, had thence detached it, as SICILY from ITALY, and ſeveral other iſlands from different parts of the continent.

No place in the world has, perhaps, received more names than this iſland. PLINY gives an enumeration of them, and he does not quote them all‡. They have exerciſed, with more or leſs ſucceſs, the fluctuating art of etymologiſts. It is not, for example, a very happy conjecture to have aſcribed the derivation of

expoſe myſelf to tireſome repetitions to adhere ſcrupulouſly to the itinerary; I therefore deſcribe objects as they preſent themſelves, and in the order which they occupy on the Chart, for the purpoſe of diffuſing greater perſpicuity in the narration, and of not compelling the reader to tread back his ſteps repeatedly, as I frequently did myſelf.

† The Iſland of *Cyprus* is ſituated in latitude 35° north, and longitude 33° eaſt from the meridian of *Greenwich*.

‡ Hiſt. Nat. lib. v. cap. 31.

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the name of *Cerastis* or *Cerastia*, *Horn Iſland*, to the iſland having been formerly inhabited by horned men, who have never exiſted any where; while it was more natural to imagine that this denomination aroſe from the multitude of narrow capes or points by which its coaſts are ſurrounded, and which bear ſome reſemblance to long horns projecting into the ſea.

The ancient Greeks were more generally acquainted with the Iſland of Cyprus by the name of *Kupros*; and that of *Kupris*, which they gave to Venus, indicated that the worſhip of that goddeſs had come to them from this place. Etymologiſts are not agreed as to the origin of this word *Kupros*. Some affirm that it is the name of a hero; but this hero is unknown in the annals of antiquity. Some are of opinion that the abundance and the beauty of the copper which this land contains in its boſom, has occaſioned to be given to it the name of a metal, which, being found formerly in metallic maſſes, and leſs difficult to melt than iron, was employed, long before, for fabricating weapons and implements of agriculture*. Others, in ſhort, diſcover the

* *Hiſtoire Naturelle des Minéraux*, par Buffon, article *cuivre*. *Vol. ii. page* 224. Sonnini's edition.

origin of *Kupros* in the name of a ſhrub, celebrated by the ancients, much in uſe ſtill among the modern Orientals, and in which the Iſland of Cyprus carried on a conſiderable traffic.

This tall ſhrub, which the Hebrews called *kopher*, and the Greeks *kupros*, is the *henné*, or *hanna* of the Arabs, and the *kanna* of the Turks*. It embelliſhes and perfumes with its bloſſoms the gardens of the Iſland of Cyprus, like thoſe of Lower Egypt. Its flowers, whoſe tender and delicate ſhades have ſo much analogy to the ſoft and animated tints of beauty, form, as heretofore, its moſt uſual and moſt eſteemed bouquet. The women ſtill delight to adorn themſelves with it, and place it in their boſom†; the powder of its leaves, dried, alſo ſerves them to dye with a durable bright orange colour all their nails, as well as the palm of their hands and the ſole of their feet. This is a general cuſtom in

* *Lawſonia inermis, foliis ſubſeſſilibus ovatis, utrinque acutis.* Linn. Syſt. Nat. octrandr. monogyn. I have given, in the greateſt detail, the hiſtory, deſcription, and figure of this charming ſhrub, in my *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt*, vol. i. page 292, and following.

† *Solomon's Song*, chap. i. v. 13 and 14.

Turkey,

Turkey, and in ſeveral other countries of the East; it originates, according to every appearance, from the aſtringent quality of the henné, calculated for checking on thoſe parts of the body the perſpiration more copious, and at the ſame time more inconvenient and more diſagreeable than elſewhere, in theſe hot climates. It is not eaſy to account in like manner for the practice of alſo colouring the nails, on which a ſolid coat, of a reddiſh dye, does not replace with advantage the pale roſe colour that is natural to them. It is, perhaps, to make the extremity of the fingers match with the under part of the hands and feet, which a bright and deep tint would throw out in too abrupt a manner, did not ſome ſurrounding parts ſoften the tone by partaking of it; unleſs we prefer ſaying that the women of all countries have moſt frequently ſpoiled the gifts which they have received from Nature, even by the pains that they have taken to preſerve or improve them. Beauty is a delicate flower, whoſe luſtre is tranſient; relentleſs time undermines and deſtroys it; and to endeavour, by means foreign to Nature, to avoid or delay an end which Love laments, but for which the qualities of the heart and the charms of the mind conſole and indemnify,

nify, is, on the contrary, to haſten it. Who ever thought of loading flowers with the coarſe mixture of our colours? And what pencil would dare to add any tint to the carnation of the roſe, the velvet down of the amaranthus, or the pale gold of the cluſters of the henné?

Of all the ancient names of the Iſland of CYPRUS, that which we love to recall to mind, although it forms a ſtrange contraſt with its preſent ſituation, is *MACARIA*, the *Fortunate Iſland*. For this name it was indebted to the fertility of its ſoil, the mildneſs of its climate, the inexpreſſible beauty of its plains, and the richneſs of its productions. The imagination of the poets lent new charms to this profuſion of the gifts of Nature; they made it the cradle of the mother of the Loves; they conſecrated this agreeable idea, by the name of *CYTHEREA*, and embelliſhed it with all the charms of the moſt delightful deſcriptions, with graceful ſcenes of tenderneſs and voluptuous enjoyment.

Over this theatre, in former times conſecrated to happineſs, to the arts, and to pleaſure, at this day reign barbarians, who have transformed it into an abode of deſtruction and ſlavery. Superb edifices, elegant temples, where the moſt beautiful, as well as the moſt amiable

amiable of divinities was adored on altars ſurrounded by the ſweeteſt and moſt voluptuous birds, living emblems of love and fidelity, now cover and ſadden, with their ſcattered remains, places of which they conſtituted the ornament and glory; and the Turks conſume even the very ruins, which they ſtill mutilate, in order to employ the fragments for common and profane purpoſes. Here, where the Graces reigned, at this day commands an old *moſalem* or governor, who ſcares them. Under a deſtructive government, agriculture has ceaſed to enrich with her treaſures beautiful plains; and the ſplendour of an iſland, formerly *fortunate*, has vaniſhed.

The riches which it contains in its boſom are more deeply buried by deſpotiſm than by the earth with which they are covered. All boring, all ſearch after mines, is ſtrictly prohibited; and copper, formerly ſo abundant in the iſland, that the ancients likewiſe diſtinguiſhed it by the epithet of *Æroſa*, *Copper Iſland*, remains uſeleſs in the bowels of the mountains that contain it, as well as zinc, tin, iron, and other minerals which rendered it famous.

Should the Iſland of Cyprus one day paſs from this ſtate of oppreſſion to a political ſitu-

ation more mild and more favourable to its commerce and induſtry, we ſhall then ſearch after all theſe mineral riches, and the working of them will powerfully contribute to revive the ancient ſplendour of the country in which they are contained; and as changes, ſo deſirable, are, perhaps, not very remote, or at leaſt I love to indulge the hope, it will not be uſeleſs to enter here into a few details reſpecting the nature of theſe ſubterraneous treaſures.

Gold, the end and motive of almoſt all human actions, and which corruption, ever-increaſing, will long render the object of the warmeſt wiſhes and ardent wants of the greater number, was, as I have ſaid, found in mines in the Iſland of CYPRUS; but they have been for ages abandoned, and tradition can ſcarcely aſſign the places where they were found. We muſt not take in a literal ſenſe, nor above all refer to our age, a paſſage of DAPPER, who, in his deſcription of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, *page* 52, aſſerts that there is in the middle of the iſland, near the town of NICOSIA, as well as in the environs of CHRUSOCCO, mines of gold, where workmen are almoſt continually employed.

Theſe

. Theſe indications, which DAPPER publiſhed in 1703, are extracted from another deſcription of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, printed in 1610, the author of which, THOMAS PORCACHI, had taken them from the ancient writers. Not that, in fact, the gold mines were not in the environs of CHRUSOCCO, a village near the gulf of that name, which occupies the place of ACAMANTIS, an ancient town, one of the moſt conſiderable of the iſland; ſome were known too in the vicinity of TAMASSUS, where ſtands the modern FAMAGUSTA, and at the foot of Mount OLYMPUS, in a diſtrict celebrated for its wines; but the traces of ancient works have there diſappeared, and the veins of a precious metal wait, in order to be diſcovered and followed anew, the return of a protecting government, which regards not as crimes the ſtrenuous efforts of induſtry towards uſeful ſpeculations, and to which are attached public proſperity and the affluence of individuals.

But ſearching, which would attain with ſtill greater certainty theſe two objects, that are the conſtant aim of every government anxious to preſerve the eſteem of nations and its own exiſtence, would be that which would tend to recover the copper mines, formerly

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ſo abundant and ſo renowned. It is particularly in the territory occupied by a famous city of antiquity, AMATHUS, the ſite of which is at preſent occupied by the ancient LIMASSOL, that the reſearches ought to be directed; it is in this diſtrict, where thoſe metals abound*, that we ſhould again diſcover that beautiful primitive copper, which Nature herſelf has purified, and elaborated in large maſſes, in order to deliver it quite prepared to human induſtry, and which no longer exiſts in the exhauſted mines of the Old Continent. The copper of CYPRUS was, in ancient times, the fineſt in the world, and its rich and primordial mines furniſhed the firſt blocks of that metal, which were brought into uſe. It was principally ſought for the purpoſeof compoſing that famous Corinthian braſs, a precious mixture of copper, gold, and ſilver, the proportions of which are unknown to us, and which was in great eſteem among the Greeks.

The ſpecies of natural vitriol, the blue or azure vitriol, which ſtill retains the name of *CYPRUS vitriol*, was found in abundance in the copper mines of which I have juſt ſpoken.

* *Gravidamque Amathunta metallis*, has OVID ſaid in his Metamorphoſes.

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The ancient THAMASSUS furniſhed a great quantity of it; but the beſt was drawn from the diſtrict of CHRUSOCCO, the vitriol mines of which were ſtill worked towards the end of the ſeventeenth century.

The iron mines lie ſcattered, and in a quantity ſufficiently large to ſupply the wants of the Cypriots and the trade of the neighbouring countries.

In the rocks is alſo found a very fine rock-cryſtal, which is called the *BAFFA diamond*, becauſe it is procured from the environs of BAFFA, a barbarous word, which has taken the place of that of PAPHOS. The mountains in the vicinity of Cape CROMACHITI and of Cape ALEXANDRETTA likewiſe contain ſome.

The bowels of the high mountains contain other riches leſs important than metallic mines; becauſe they are uſeful to luxury alone. Theſe are emeralds, amethyſts, peridots, opals, &c. The Scythian jaſper was reputed the beſt among the ancients; next came the Cyprian, and laſtly, the Egyptian. The river PEDICUS, which takes its ſource in the mountains at no great diſtance from NICOSIA, rolls down, with its limpid waters, fragments of very fine red jaſper.

Aſbeſtos,

Aſbeſtos, or the incombuſtible flax of the ancients, is ſtill as plentiful as it was formerly; the quarry which furniſhes it is in the mountain of ACAMANTIS, near Cape CHROMACHITI.

Talc is common, eſpecially near LARNICA, where it is employed for white-waſhing houſes; and there are numerous quarries of plaſter. Thoſe of marble afford it in abundance for building. But at preſent there are ſcarcely worked any of thoſe, which yield none but a common white marble, of little conſiſtence.

Of all the treaſures which the earth conceals, the Turk, who knows only how to deſolate it, allows not the unfortunate iſlanders any trade but in yellow ochre, umber, and *terre verte*, ſubſtances common in CYPRUS, and which are employed in coarſe painting.

To the mineral ſubſtances, the exportation of which is ſtill permitted, we muſt add marine ſalt, which, under the domination of the princes of EUROPE, was the ſource of conſiderable revenues. The great lake, or ſalt-marſh, in which it is formed, near the hamlet of the Salterns, was, in former times, three leagues in circumference; but the exportation of ſalt having ſucceſſively diminiſhed, the lake has

has been partly drained and cultivated; ſo that the ſea and rain-waters are ſcarcely any longer collected there but on a ſpace of a league in circuit. The heat of a burning ſun accelerates the evaporation of theſe waters, and leaves expoſed a thick cruſt of ſalt, which is gathered in the month of September, that is, before the rainy ſeaſon, and is then heaped up in pyramids. Theſe heaps of ſalt, in the end, acquire conſiſtence and harden in the air; they even reſiſt the winter rains, and, in the ſpring, are loaded on board ſmall veſſels, which convey them to the neighbouring coaſts. The government farms out theſe natural ſalterns for a year only; and, agreeably to the plan of diſcouragement which it has marked out for itſelf, it clogs with a thouſand ſhackles the extraction and the ſale. Accordingly there exiſts no proportion between what the ſalterns produced formerly and what they yield at the preſent day: a few of the country barks ſuffice for the conveyance of the quantity which enters into the export-trade; whereas the Venetians annually formed of it the cargo of ſeventy large ſhips. If the choked-up canals, which form the communication between the lake and the ſea, were re-eſtabliſhed, the water would cover

the ſame extent of ground that it occupied before, and the lake of the ſalterns would again become one of the moſt important branches of the trade and revenues of the iſland.

What the bowels of the earth contain in riches, is not more than what its ſurface may yield. The preſents of agriculture are not here leſs numerous nor leſs brilliant than the leſs valuable treaſures of mineralogy; but both are equally a prey to the brutal combinations of ignorance and barbariſm. The produce of a languiſhing culture affords the remembrance and the meaſure of the fertility of which a ſoil favoured by nature is ſuſceptible, when the heavy and burning hand of Tyranny does not ſucceed in drying it up.

Olive-trees are much leſs common here than in paſt times. Their fruits no longer furniſh ſufficient oil for the ſupply of the inhabitants, and what remains of them ſeems to exiſt only to atteſt that olive-oil formed in CYPRUS a very conſiderable branch of commerce. Immenſe reſervoirs, in the form of ciſterns, and coated with an impenetrable cement, ſtill ſubſiſt in the environs of LARNICA. Oil was preſerved in theſe, and, to fill them, a prodigious quantity was required. The ſoil is ſo

favourable to olive-trees, that ſome are ſeen here of ſuch a ſize that two men, with outſtretched arms, would find it difficult to ſpan their circumference. Theſe fine trees, which, in ſome places, are planted with order and ſymmetry, are a proof of the antiquity of a culture which cannot be too much encouraged in climates that are ſuitable to it, as well on account of the great conſumption which domeſtic economy and the arts make of olive-oil, as of the loſſes which the ſevere winters of theſe latter years have occaſioned in our plantations.

Mulberry-trees ſtill form ſmall woods in certain quarters of the iſland; but their culture is abandoned in ſeveral, although it is the moſt eaſy of all, ſince it requires only to conduct water to the foot of each tree, in order to cool it during the burning heats of the ſummer. Here the bad cuſtom obtains of lopping off the branches of theſe trees for the purpoſe of giving their leaves to the ſilk-worm, the rearing of which is attended with fewer inconveniences than elſewhere, under a ſky which, in the ſeaſon of gathering them, experiences no variations. The ſilk-trade, although leſs flouriſhing than it was before the invaſion of the Turks, is, nevertheleſs, ſtill

of ſome importance. It is at FAMAGUSTA that the market of this commodity is held, and there, are annually ſold about twenty thouſand bales, of three hundred pounds each. In this quantity is white ſilk, gold yellow, ſulphur yellow, and laſtly orange-coloured. The floſs is likewiſe thrown into trade, and, like the ſilk itſelf, it is diſpatched to the ports of TURKEY and EUROPE.

A tree leſs valuable, but which notwithſtanding is of good produce, covers with its ſhade ſeveral diſtricts, and bears fruits which furniſh a particular trade: this is the carob or ST. JOHN'S bread tree, common alſo in other countries whoſe temperature is mild, ſuch as SPAIN, the ſouth of FRANCE, ITALY, and particularly the kingdom of NAPLES. In the ports of CYPRUS, veſſels load the long, thick pods which this tree produces, and carry them to SYRIA and ALEXANDRIA. In the latter port, I have ſeen ſeveral veſſels arrive, whoſe cargo conſiſted ſolely of this ſpecies of fruit; whence an idea may be formed of the quantity conſumed of it by the inhabitants of EGYPT. They eat the ſucculent pulp which the pods contain, with hard and flat ſeeds; with them, it likewiſe ſupplies the place of ſugar and honey, and they

they employ it in preſerving other fruits. This pulp has the taſte of that of caſſia, and the honied, but inſipid and ſlightly nauſeous flavour of manna. The environs of LIMASSOL are planted with a great quantity of carob-trees, and it is more particularly in this harbour that the cargoes of their pods are ſhipped.

This fruit, known under the name of ST. JOHN'S bread, and which the Greeks call *keraka*, bad as it is, is not, on that account, leſs an article of food for the people of EGYPT and BARBARY, where the tree itſelf is not unknown. The Arabs call it *karoub* or *karnoub*. In EUROPE, in places where it is at a low price, the poor likewiſe live on it. It is alſo given as food to mules and cattle, which the uſe of it fattens. Laſtly, the wood of the carob-tree being very hard, and conſequently proper to be uſed in different works, we cannot but regret that this ſerviceable tree, by not thriving in our more northern regions, ſhould not there add to the reſources of the arts and of rural economy.

In the time of the ancient Romans, the carob-tree was already very plentiful in ITALY. The fruit, which was called *ſiliqua*, ſerved as a weight; it required ſix pods to make a

ſcruple; and as the pound was compoſed of two hundred and eighty-eight ſcruples, it alſo required one thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-eight pods to make its weight*. It may eaſily be conceived that this manner of weighing, which could ſerve only for coarſe articles of little value, was not likely to be very exact.

Moſt of the plains, of which cotton conſtituted the richneſs, ſtill preſerve ſome traces of that culture; but it is there no more than a feeble image of what it was formerly. The whole iſland now affords to commerce but about three thouſand bales of cotton; whereas, under the government of the Venetians, the annual quantity of theſe bales amounted to thirty thouſand†. CYPRUS cotton is the moſt eſteemed, as the fineſt of all the LEVANT; it is ſold too at a higher price. It is not ſo fine in the moſt ſouthern iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO; that of SMYRNA is ſtill inferior.

* See in the *Mémoires de l'Académie des Belles-Lettres*, vol. xxviii. page 653, year 1757, the diſſertation of M. DUPUIS, on the ſtate of the Roman coin, &c. This profound ſcholar demonſtrates that SCALIGER is miſtaken in taking the *ſiliqua* of the Romans for the fruit of the cornil-tree.

† The bale of cotton commonly weighs three hundred weight.

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In ſhort, the cotton produced in the environs of SALONICA is yet worſe than that of SMYRNA; ſo that the more we advance towards the north, the more this article, ſo valuable in manufactures, loſes in quality.

It would therefore be a uſeleſs attempt, and prejudicial even to the intereſts of the cultivator, to endeavour to introduce into the ſouth of FRANCE the culture of the cotton-plant, as has been propoſed by ſome perſons, ſeduced by little trials which atteſt rather the taſte and curioſity of the *amateur*, than the ſpeculations of the huſbandman*. And ſhould we ever ſucceed in cultivating on a large

* A few plants of fine cotton-trees, on which the delicate attentions of luxurious culture have been laviſhed, and which have yielded choice cotton, are far from furniſhing a ſufficient proof of ſuch a ſucceſs, when we are ſpeaking of large plantations, which, to be profitable, ought to require only the ſimple proceedings of common culture. I am acquainted with a learned and eſtimable cultivator of the department of *Landes*, who has ſucceeded in raiſing, even in the open ground, ſome cotton-trees, from which he has obtained tolerably fine cotton: I myſelf have had ſome under layers and under glaſſes, in one of our northern departments, that of *La Meurthe*; but from theſe trials, gratifying to curioſity, it, doubtleſs, will not be concluded that cotton is to thrive at *Landes*, and ſtill leſs on the banks of *La Meurthe*.

ſcale, and with any ſucceſs, the cotton-plant in theſe ſame countries of FRANCE, precarious crops of bad quality could not indemnify us for the expenſes of raiſing it, nor exempt us from going up the LEVANT to look for cottons more abundant and of a ſuperior quality, that is, whiter, finer, and more ſilky.

The cotton-tree cultivated in the EAST is that which is called the *annual* cotton-tree, or cotton-*plant*†, in order to diſtinguiſh it from that of the colonial plantations in the WEST INDIES, which is the *cotton-tree*‡. On a field, well prepared and turned up, are marked furrows, in which are planted, at certain diſtances, a few ſeeds of the cotton-tree, much the ſame as is practiſed with reſpect to maize. It is in the month of April that theſe ſowings are made in CYPRUS; as ſoon as the plants are above ground, thoſe which are too weak are pulled up, and the ſtrongeſt only are left. They are weeded, and the earth about them is looſened in the courſe of the ſummer; their pods ripen towards the month of October, and the ſilky down which they

† *Goſſypium herbaceum.* LINN.

‡ *Goſſypium arboreum.* LINN.

afford

afford is then ſeparated from the ſeeds that it ſurrounds.

The humidity of the atmoſphere, rains of long duration, or too frequent, are equally unfavourable to the cotton-tree. A ſtrong heat is very ſuitable to it; this promotes the dazzling whiteneſs of the down, and contributes to the fineneſs and ſubſtance of the ſilk. The impetuous north winds are a ſcourge to this plantation, particularly at the period of flowering; the fruits miſcarry, and the crop, almoſt totally loſt, diſappoints the hope of the cultivator as well as that of the trader.

At the time when the Venetians poſſeſſed the Iſland of CYPRUS, they had made there large plantations of ſugar-canes, which ſucceeded as well as in EGYPT, in the beſt diſtricts of the iſland, like that of PISCOPIA, on the road from LIMASSOL to BAFFA, where the beſt cotton in the country alſo grows, and near LASCA, in the gulf of PANTAIA. Proper buildings were erected on the ſame ſpots for refining the ſugar, and it may be conceived what advantages would have been derived from theſe plantations, and theſe ſugar-refineries, in a ſituation ſo near EUROPE.

But

But a ſtern barbarian, with fire and ſword in hand, advanced as an exterminator of all property, and proud of annihilating every trace of ameliorations, which were in his eyes the work of infidels, he cauſed to be burnt with the ſugar-houſes, thoſe rich plantations, and thus devoted to ſterility vaſt plains, deſtined to give freſh activity to induſtry and national proſperity. Such a rage has produced all the effect that the demon of deſtruction might expect. Since that diſaſtrous epoch, the inhabitants, perſecuted on every ſide, have taken care not to reſume a kind of culture which would have been for them only a pretext for freſh exactions on the part of their oppreſſors, and they have not ventured to cauſe the ſugar-canes to revive from their aſhes. But we are, nevertheleſs, certain that they were cultivated with ſucceſs in CYPRUS; and when the iſland ſhall paſs into hands more worthy of poſſeſſing it, thoſe valuable ſeeds will cover again plains whoſe richneſs they have already conſtituted.

It would not even be impoſſible, nor perhaps very difficult, although it has not yet been attempted, to increaſe the agricultural riches of the plains of CYPRUS, by making,

near

near the fields of ſugar-canes, another kind of plantation, which, moſt commonly, accompanies them, as their produce is mixed in the uſe that we make of it, I mean the culture of the coffee-tree. The ſoil of the iſland affords, in ſeveral points, places favourable to the vegetation of this ſhrub; the heat of theſe ſpots is no leſs ſtrong than in the country, not far diſtant, where the fruit of the coffee-tree acquires more perfume; and I am perſuaded that eſſays of this nature, directed with intelligence, would be crowned with complete ſucceſs. They have, it is ſaid, already been attempted in vain in a more ſouthern country, and which has more analogy to that of YEMEN. But MAILLET, who aſſures us that the coffee-tree could not thrive in EGYPT*, gives no detail reſpecting the ſoil which was choſen for theſe experiments, its expoſure, nor the acceſſories of its ſituation; and, notwithſtanding this teſtimony, I am perſuaded, as I have already expreſſed in my TRAVELS IN EGYPT†, that trials, better combined, would inſure to that country the culture of the coffee-tree. And circumſtances

* *Deſcription de l'Egypte*, 4to. part ii. page 13.

† Vol. ii. page 263.

lead

lead me to preſume that it would ſucceed equally well in the Iſland of CYPRUS.

Here every thing atteſts the goodneſs of the ſoil. The gardens are full of pot-herbs of a very good quality; cauliflowers, in particular, are excellent; and the quantity of vegetables is ſufficiently great for ſhips to lay in a ſtock, and even carry ſome to countries leſs fertile. Theſe ſame gardens are brilliant from the luſtre of various ſorts of flowers; and aromatic plants there diffuſe afar their ſtrong and ſweet odour. Orange-trees, lemon-trees, pomegranate and other fruit trees, ſtill form groves round the habitations; the greater part never loſe their vernal garb; the greater part too are covered with odoriferous flowers, and with theſe the henné blends the perfume of its cluſters. Under balmy and ſilent bowers, in which waters, brought by ſubterraneous conduits, maintain verdure and coolneſs, we ſhould love to recall to mind that the goddeſs of the iſland conſecrated them to her ſweeteſt myſteries, could the enjoyments of the heart exiſt in places ſurrounded by the veſtiges of deſtruction, and which give birth to afflicting recollections.

In all the ſpots which ſtupid tyranny has not condemned to barren nakedneſs, various

ſpecies

ſpecies of corn yield abundant harveſts; but the ſpaces that they occupy are very circumſcribed, if we compare them to the plains which they have covered, and which now preſent only the livery of neglect and wretchedneſs. Wheat and barley were one of the principal articles of exportation; at this day they ſcarcely ſuffice for the ſubſiſtence of the population of the iſland, even when they eſcape another ſcourge, formidable from the quantity, really prodigious, rather than from the ſtrength of its elements. Thouſands of myriads of graſshoppers come ſometimes in thick clouds, and dart on the fields, ready to yield to the cultivator the exchange of his labours and toils. Fire is leſs quick: in a few moments the ſtalks of the plants are laid down and cut in pieces, the ears devoured, the crops deſtroyed, and the fields deſolated.

Theſe ravages are not confined to the harveſts; the graſshoppers alſo ſtrip the mulberry-tree of its leaves, and thus they conſign to death the valuable inſect which feeds on them; other uſeful plants become their prey. On their approach all verdure diſappears, and they even gnaw the very bark of the trees.

It is to this fatal combination of the oppreſſion of the government, and of the accidental, but unfortunately too often repeated marks of the anger of Nature, that we muſt attribute the ſtate of languor, and the almoſt total decay of the agriculture of CYPRUS.

Endeavours have been made to explain how inſects, winged indeed, but little capable of a flight of long duration, could appear all at once, like a devaſtating ſtorm, on lands ſurrounded by the ſea. Naturaliſts have imagined that graſshoppers, incapable of croſſing a large ſpace of ſea, repaired to CYPRUS with the veſſels from SYRIA, in which they kept themſelves concealed during the voyage*; but it would be difficult, on this hypotheſis, to explain the ſudden appearance of theſe living clouds in certain years, while in others none of them are to be ſeen. On the other hand, muſt not navigators perceive this prodigious multitude of ſtrangers; and could it be ſuppoſed that they would conſent to carry them obligingly into countries where ſcarcity and deſolation would

* HASSELQUITZ, *Voyage dans le Levant*, publiſhed by *C. Linnæus*, and tranſlated from the German, by M***, part ii, page 176. Letter to *M. Linnæus*, dated from *Smyrna*, 29th Auguſt, 1751.

land

land with them? Beſides, there is a certain fact, which removes the idea of graſshoppers getting on ſhipboard; this is, that the ſea-ſhores, on the coaſt of CYPRUS, are ſometimes covered, and infected to a great diſtance, with their dead bodies floating on the ſurface of the waters, and theſe vaſt wrecks imply a paſſage more perilous than a voyage on board ſhip. It cannot therefore be doubted that theſe ſwarms of graſshoppers arrive from the continent, where, according to the opinion of M. HASSELQUITZ, they muſt be formed in the midſt of the deſerts of ARABIA, whence they depart, ſupported and impelled by the winds.

The moſt eaſtern point of the Iſland of CYPRUS, Cape SANT ANDREA, being ſcarcely diſtant from the coaſt of SYRIA more than from twenty to twenty-five leagues, a gale of wind may eaſily carry thither light inſects, which aſſiſt themſelves with their wings, and poſſeſs much ſtrength and agility. It is poſitively known that roving graſshoppers have croſſed ſeas wider than this ſtrait. M. NIEBUHR mentions, that in the month of November, 1762, a prodigious quantity of graſshoppers fell in the environs of DSJIDDA, a town of ARABIA, on the borders of the

RED

RED SEA, after having croſſed that ſea, which, in this place, is upwards of fifty leagues in width; a great many periſhed, indeed, in the paſſage; which did not prevent the reſt from ſpreading themſelves over the fields in inconceivable numbers*. I have myſelf ſeen graſshoppers alight on a veſſel, in a voyage along the weſt coaſt of AFRICA, abreaſt of Cape BLANCO, and out of ſight of all land. We could not imagine that theſe inſects had come on board with us; they arrived from the eaſt, and were of a ſpecies unknown in FRANCE; every part of them was of a pale yellow, or filemot colour. They who do not content themſelves with ſtudying Nature in books or in collections, and who viſit with ſome attention the immenſe galleries which ſhe has herſelf arranged with admirable order, for the purpoſe of making them an eternal ſubject of contemplation, they, I ſay, may have remarked that the large green-graſshopper of our meadows raiſes itſelf with rapidity to a height ſomewhat conſiderable, and ſupports itſelf for ſome time in the air, when the weather is warm, the ſky

* *Deſcription de l'Arabie*, French edition 4to, vol. i. page 148 and following.

ſerene,

ſerene, and the atmoſphere free from humidity; from this we may judge, that the wandering ſpecies, probably more vigorous, as well as more accuſtomed to travelling, may, in warm and dry climates, undertake long paſſages in cloſe columns, and, favoured by the winds, venture to croſs gulfs and ſtraits.

And the frightful havock of theſe numberleſs phalanxes of devouring inſects is not always confined to the fertile plains of the EAST; they are ſeen, more rarely it is true, but with the ſame fury, to ſtrip the fields of more weſtern countries of their harveſts, of their verdure, to change in an inſtant the rich and ſmiling carpet of fecundity into a hideous ſcene of nakedneſs and devaſtation; and, after having deprived the earth of her dreſs, men of the fruit of their labours and of their means of ſubſiſtence, to finiſh by infecting the air with their carcaſes heaped up, and by ſpreading contagion and death. Who knows whether this be not one of the principal cauſes of the melancholy and cruel permanence of the plague in the EAST?

FRANCE herſelf has not been exempt from the misfortunes produced by theſe prodigious and formidable bodies, carrying in their train conſternation and want. In the year 1784,

a vaſt ſwarm of theſe inſects, coming from the eaſt, croſſed FRANCE, devoured every thing on their paſſage, and fell into the Britiſh channel. MEZERAI mentions with great detail another irruption of graſshoppers, which deprived the ſouth of FRANCE of its harveſts, of its vegetables, and of its trefoil. That hiſtorian informs us, that the graſshoppers which eſcaped from the birds, depoſited ſuch a quantity of eggs on the ground, particularly in the ſandy ſpots, that it was thought neceſſary to cauſe them to be picked up in order to deſtroy them. They were found in heaps, and in this manner were collected upwards of three thouſand quintals, which were burnt or thrown into the RHONE. On calculating the number of inſects that were to be hatched by theſe maſſes of eggs, it was found, by a very low eſtimate, that there was one million ſeven hundred and fifty thouſand to the quintal, which might give, for the total, five hundred and fifty thouſand millions of graſshopper's eggs, that would have been hatched the following year. On other occaſions a reward was ſet on graſshoppers; in 1767, two *ſous* a pound were paid for them in ſome parts of LANGUEDOC; in 1787, only one *ſou* was given; and yet it was known, by the examination of the accounts

accounts of the little community of SAINT GILLES, that eleven or twelve hundred quintals of them had been deſtroyed on its territory alone*.

In the Iſland of CYPRUS they alſo gather madder, which in the LEVANT is called *alizary*, and with which cottons are there dyed red; coloquintida, with which ſeveral fields are covered almoſt without culture; opium, which is cultivated at the foot of Mount OLYMPUS, and is purified and packed up at NICOSIA, and a few other articles of leſs importance. The ſandy ſoil of Cape CROMACHITI is covered with ſoda, which is burnt in ſummer in order to ſend the aſhes to Europe, where it is employed in ſoap-manufactories. The foreſts afford very fine wood for building and planks; thence are likewiſe drawn tar and pitch, and the turpentine of CYPRUS is more eſteemed than that of any other country.

Flocks that might be more numerous, afford to commerce a tolerably large quantity of wool which paſſed into ITALY and FRANCE.

* See the *Notice des Inſectes de la France réputés venimeux*; *par* M. AMOUREUX *fils*, *médicin de Montpelier*, 1789, introduction, page 122 and following.

An important obſervation on the ſubject of the conveyance of wool, is not to ſhip that which may have contracted any humidity, becauſe it then becomes heated, catches fire, and ſets the veſſel in flames. The ſame precaution is indiſpenſable for the loading of madder; this root, in order to avoid the ſame danger, ought not to be packed up but dry and perfectly exempt from all moiſture.

One of the productions which the Cypriots rear with the greateſt attention, and which has not ceaſed to be to them an advantageous branch of trade, although like every other it has felt the violence and want of reflection of the government, is the famous wine which is yielded them by vines with twiſting and creeping ſtems, and large and delicious fruit. The beſt vines, a natural temple, dear to BACCHUS, whence flows this yellowiſh, rich, and perfumed wine, which conſtitutes the delight and luxury of our tables, occupy a diſtrict called the *Commandery*, becauſe it made a part of the great commandery of the Templars and of the Knights of MALTA. It is compriſed between Mount OLYMPUS and the towns of LIMASSOL and PAPHOS. Although all the wines of CYPRUS come not from this diſtrict, they do not the leſs, on that account, bear, in

in trade, the name of wines of the commandery, in order to enhance their value. Under that name is found ſome very common, and at a very low price. I have purchaſed at ALEXANDRIA ſome of this pretended wine of the commandery, at ten parats, or a little more than twelve *ſous* the *dame-jeanne**; it was new, very light, and had no reſemblance in point of flavour to the diſtinguiſhed CYPRUS wine. From all parts of the iſland the wines are collected at LARNICA, where they are kept till they are ſhipped; but they want age in order to acquire the excellent qualities which cauſe them to be ſo much in requeſt. The Greeks of CYPRUS, from a very ancient cuſtom, when they have a child born, bury large veſſels filled with wine, and cloſely ſtopped; theſe are not taken out of the ground but for the marriage of that ſame child. This wine, which might be called family-wine, ſince it ſerves to celebrate its moſt happy events, preſerved ſecure from the impreſſions of the air, becomes exquiſite on being taken out of the earth, and a real treaſure to a delicate palate. Among perſons in eaſy circumſtances, the

* A glaſs-veſſel containing about three gallons Engliſh meaſure.

quantity of wine buried is ſeldom conſumed in marriage-feſtivals, and a part is ſold to Europeans, who have not always the opportunity of procuring any ſo good.

CYPRUS wine is conveyed to EUROPE, either in caſks, or in thoſe large glaſs bottles, covered with ruſh or wicker, which are called *dames-jeannes*. This latter method would be preferable, the wine keeping better in glaſs veſſels, if, on the other hand, the loſs of it were not to be feared, from the danger of breaking the *dames-jeannes* in the courſe of a rather long voyage. When CYPRUS wine is ſhipped in caſks, and the price is not conſidered in order to have that of the beſt quality, the purchaſer procures caſks in which has been left a certain quantity of lees, which have the property of improving the wine; accordingly the caſks, thus provided with lees, ſell four times dearer than thoſe which are deſtitute of them.

A modern author, who has written his travels to the LEVANT, ſtruck with the excellence of the CYPRUS wines, is aſtoniſhed that the merchants of EUROPE have not tried to convey thither plants of theſe celebrated vines. He takes the trouble of deſcribing minutely the precautions neceſſary to be obſerved for removing

removing theſe plants, in ſuch a manner that they might again ſtrike in the new ground appropriated to them*. It certainly is not in this that the difficulty conſiſts; living plants are brought to EUROPE from diſtances much more conſiderable. It is even well known that FRANCIS I. had procured from CYPRUS a ſufficient quantity of vine plants for covering fifty *arpens* or French acres at FONTAINEBLEAU. We are ignorant what is become of theſe vines, planted at ſo great an expenſe; and we ſhould be greatly miſtaken to attribute to them the good quality and the reputation which the ſuperior white grapes of FONTAINEBLEAU owe only to the manner of their being planted and cultivated, and to the care beſtowed on them. But the real difficulty, and it is inſurmountable, is to meet with the ſame ſoil, the ſame expoſure, the ſame climate, the ſame degrees of temperature, in a word, to make CYPRUS wine elſewhere than in CYPRUS.

The arts there languiſh more than agriculture; thoſe cultivated are but few, and, with

* *Voyages dans l'île de Chypre, la Syrie, et la Paleſtine, par M. l'Abbé* MARITI, tranſlated from the Italian, vol. i. page 225.

the exception of the preparation of the leather called TURKEY leather or Morocco, there are ſcarcely any that deſerve attention. This leather is prepared at NICOSIA and in the neighbouring villages; the workmen pretend to be in poſſeſſion of a particular proceſs, of which they make a ſecret; what is certain, is, that the leather which has paſſed through their hands is more lively and more brilliant in colour, and is, in general, better dreſſed than in the other parts of TURKEY, where, nevertheleſs, it is very handſome.

It is not only on leather that the workmen of NICOSIA and of the environs know how to apply dyes equally brilliant and durable; they alſo manufacture there printed calicoes, the colours of which become brighter by wear and bleaching. Other cloths, half ſilk, half cotton, are likewiſe manufactured in the ſame places; they are fine, but till agriculture and induſtry have reſumed ſome activity, it will be difficult to introduce thoſe articles into trade, on account of their price, which the too ſmall quantity of the raw materials renders too high.

In return for theſe productions of nature and art, the Cypriots receive woollen cloths, ſattins, light ſtuffs, laces, ſome of our metals,

INDIA

INDIA ſpices, commodities of our colonies, &c. &c. Theſe articles of the import-trade are not ſo numerous as they would be, if the worſt of governments had not ſingularly weakened the population and reſources of one of the fineſt countries of the EAST.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER IV.

Climate of the Iſland of Cyprus. — *Cauſe of the great drought which prevails there.* — France *threatened with the ſame ills by the deſtruction of her foreſts.* — *Inhabitants of the iſland.* — *Mount* Olympus. — Famaguſta. — Salamis. — Nicoſia. — Larnica. — Citium. — *The* Salterns. — Limaſſol. — *Cape* de' Gatti. — Paphos. — Cerines. — *Numerous changes in the government of the Iſland of* Cyprus.

THE nature of the productions of the Iſland of CYPRUS would ſufficiently indicate the nature of its climate, if its vicinity to SYRIA, one of the hotteſt countries in the world, was not ſufficient to convey an idea of it. In the ſummer, the heat felt there is, indeed, exceſſive; but it is not equal in every part of the iſland, which, being interſected, from eaſt to weſt, by a chain of mountains, affords two different regions as well as two different temperatures. To the north, the winds that blow from the high mountains of CARAMANIA,

checked and repelled by thoſe with which the iſland is croſſed in its length, temper the heat of the ſummer, produce piercing colds during the winter, and preſerve frozen ſnow on the moſt lofty ſpots, during the greater part of the year. This northern region is alſo, generally ſpeaking, the moſt hilly, the moſt wooded, the moſt rural, and the leaſt fertile.

In the plains of the ſouth, on the contrary, the heat of the ſun, reflected by the ſhelves of rocks, which, in a great meaſure, form on this ſide the back of the mountains, there expands at full liberty. The north winds not being able to clear the natural barrier which the middle of the iſland oppoſes to them, cool not the atmoſphere; and, did there not ſpring up, from time to time, a light ſea-breeze which moderates the heat, it would be inſupportable in certain days of the ſummer. Rain here is alſo very rare in this ſeaſon, and long and cruel droughts ſometimes baniſh an agreeable verdure, deſtroy the plants, attract cloſe and numberleſs columns of graſshoppers, and place frightful Scarcity on Aridity's hard and burning throne. The irrigation of the lands, neglected by men, as laborious perhaps as formerly, but depreſſed and diſheartened, can no longer moiſten fields parched up; while, in ſome diſtricts,

tricts, ſtagnant and uſeleſs waters render them an unwholeſome abode. Running ſtreams are ſcarce, and the greater part of the rivers which flow here are only torrents formed by the winter rains and the melting of the ſnow on the mountains, and whoſe bed is dry during warm weather.

This dryneſs of the earth and of the atmoſphere continues daily to increaſe, in proportion as the plantations become more ſcarce, as the number of the trees diminiſhes, and as the foreſts are felled. A culpable want of foreſight reſpecting the ſucceſſive decay of a happy fertility, is by no means aſtoniſhing under the deſtructive adminiſtration of the Turks; but that, in countries where public economy is a ſcience cultivated and thoroughly underſtood, the ſame diſorders which pollute territories ſubjected to barbarians, ſhould be propagated and maintained, is that which we have ſome difficulty to conceive, and which excites indignation. The ancients conſecrated foreſts to the Divinity; reſpect commanded that theſe ſhould be ſpared, and it was not without religious circumſpection that they carried thither the hatchet. To a protecting mythology has ſucceeded the exceſs of luxury and diſorder. Woods, which our anceſtors had

had choſen for temples, ſacred oaks, under whoſe ſhade they had erected altars, ſimple as nature, have been overthrown: the ſacrilegious axe has not ſpared the aſylum of ancient piety, nor the fertile reſources of ſucceeding ages. Naked and frowning rocks ſhew themſelves on the brow of the mountains, which, not long ſince, vigorous vegetation decorated with the fineſt trees; the ſlopes affording more facility to devaſtation, are almoſt entirely ſtripped; the ſolitary trees, which, in our fields, ſerved as natural and immutable boundaries as well as for ſhelter to our flocks, have likewiſe fallen victims of licentiouſneſs; every where the property of our poſterity has become the prey of culpable and faithleſs truſtees; and the moſt intereſting part of our national wealth has ſeemed to be governed only by the laws of cupidity and plunder: already have the rains waſhed down into the plains part of the earth which covered the ſummit of the mountains, the hills are ſinking, the vallies are riſing, the ſprings are growing dry, the bed of the rivers is filling up, the fields are becoming parched; and if a repairing government does not take wiſe but ſpeedy meaſures, we ſhall have to tranſmit to poſterity nothing but a ſum of misfortunes

ever-increaſing; and the ſoil of FRANCE would run the riſk of ſharing the aridity with which a deteſtable adminiſtration has ſtruck that of the Iſland of CYPRUS.

The GREEKS who inhabit it are tall and well made; their countenance and their manners are equally noble and agreeable. But their moral character is not thought to correſpond with theſe external good qualities. They are ſaid to be the moſt cunning and moſt knaviſh of all the Greeks; we ſhould be tempted to ceaſe to pity them for the oppreſſion under which they groan, if we did not know that diſſimulation and this ſort of obliquity of character are frequently ſymptoms of weakneſs, and the companions of ſlavery; and if, on the other hand, theſe ſame men did not ſometimes make us forget their faults by their virtues, and, particularly, by thoſe of hoſpitality, which they exerciſe in a moſt generous manner. The Cypriot is gay, and a great friend to ſhow and pleaſure; he is not the only ſlave that we have ſeen dance in his fetters.

It may well be expected that beauty ought to ſhine, with all its luſtre, in the ſpot choſen by VENUS, for eſtabliſhing her ſweet empire, and the worſhip of the Graces and Pleaſures. The women of CYPRUS were formerly celebrated

brated for their charms; they ſtill preſerve them; nor have they even loſt the remembrance that their iſland was conſecrated to love. Theſe beautiful women are very choice in their attire; they are exceſſively fond of flowers, as the moſt natural and moſt elegant accompaniment of their attractions; they do not diſſemble their wiſh to pleaſe, but they manifeſt it with an amiable frankneſs. Although in the enjoyment, perhaps, of leſs liberty than formerly, the reſtriction to which cuſtom, or, to ſpeak more correctly, the caprices of men ſubject them, does not amount to conſtraint; and at leaſt they no longer compoſe the diſgraceful tribute which their anceſtors paid to the queens of PERSIA, of fifty among them, whoſe duty, in a haughty and deſpotic court, conſiſted in throwing themſelves between the wheels of the cars, and in preſenting their back to the queen, who made uſe of it as a footſtool.

The moſt elevated, as well as the moſt remarkable of the mountains, the chain of which divides the Iſland of CYPRUS lengthwiſe, is Mount OLYMPUS. The Greeks of the preſent day call it *TROODOS*, *TRODODOS*, or *TROBOS*. In order to diſtinguiſh it from another mountain of the ſame name in NATOLIA, and from another

another more famous in MACEDONIA, the ancients gave this the name of Little OLYMPUS. On its ſummit they had built a temple dedicated to VENUS, the entrance of which, by a regulation very ſtrange for a ſpot conſecrated to the goddeſs of Love, was prohibited to women; they were even forbidden to look at it. To this temple, an elegant and ſacred receſs, where were celebrated the enjoyments of nature, had ſucceeded retreats erected for privations. Numbers of convents were built on the ſame ground. There, laborious cenobites embelliſhed the ſlope of the mountain with gardens, and plantations of all ſorts, laid out with taſte; this was the moſt charming abode in the iſland, and the rich Cypriots went thither, during the ſummer, to enjoy the coolneſs of agreeable groves, watered by limpid ſtreams, directed with conſiderable art. Inſenſible to a happy harmony of nature and induſtry, the Turk has carried his ferocity and ravages into this beautiful diſtrict; the monaſteries have been demoliſhed; and cool and cheerful ſpots have been clothed with the rugged garb of Sterility.

The Iſland of CYPRUS is about ſeventy leagues in length from eaſt to weſt; its greateſt breadth from north to ſouth is thirty leagues;

leagues; and its circumference is nearly one hundred and eighty. In coaſting its ſouth ſhore, the lands of the long point of Cape SANT ANDREA, formerly Cape DINARETE, is found a large gulf, formed by this cape and Cape GRECO, which the ancients called *THRONI*, and on which PTOLEMY places a town of the ſame name. At the bottom of this gulf is the town of FAMAGUSTA, a modern name, reſpecting the etymology of which the learned are not agreed; but they pretty generally admit that this town is built on the ruins of the ancient ARSINOË, which took its name from its founder, the ſiſter of PTOLEMY PHILADELPHUS, king of EGYPT. Situated in a bottom, FAMAGUSTA is not perceived at a diſtance, on arriving thither from the ſea: its harbour is ſafe, but by no means ſpacious, and it is half choked up; ſmall veſſels alone can enter it, and large ſhips anchor without. Some fortifications, the work of LUSIGNAN, of the Genoeſe, and of the Venetians, who have ſucceſſively had poſſeſſion of them, defend the harbour and the enclo-ſure of the town, as much as they can ſerve for defence in their preſent ſtate of degradation, the effect of the negligence of the Turks,

who know only how to deſtroy, but never repair.

Theſe ramparts recall to mind a deplorable anecdote of the moſt atrocious violation of the law of nations and of war; it may ſerve to convey an idea of the character and of the civilization of a people in whoſe eyes heroiſm and courageous fidelity to our duties are crimes, and whoſe profound cruelty ſports with promiſes the moſt ſolemn, and conventions the moſt ſacred. At FAMAGUSTA, the tears of the man of feeling water the ſpot where MARCO ANTONIO BRAGADINO defended that town with ſo much valour againſt the army of the Turks, commanded by MUSTAPHA, general of the emperor SELIM, and he ſhudders with indignation at the recital of the moſt execrable treachery of which that brave European died a victim.

After having ſuſtained ſix aſſaults againſt the united Ottoman forces, and experienced the ravages of five hundred thouſand ſhells, the valiant BRAGADINO, commander of the Venetian army, being forced to yield to numbers, capitulated on the firſt of Auguſt 1571. The conditions were ſettled; they were honourable to the beſieged, and worthy of their long

long and brave reſiſtance; but, at the moment when the European general went to MUSTAPHA's tent, in order to announce to him his departure and take leave of him, the barbarian cauſed him to be ſeized and delivered up to the moſt cruel tortures. He was ſkinned alive, then empaled; and his ſkin, ſtuffed with ſtraw, was hung to the yard-arm of a galley, as an eternal teſtimony of the horrible inhumanity of the Turks, and a ſignal of vengeance to civilized nations.

We haſten to quit a ſpot witneſs of ſo dreadful an act of cruelty, and we enter, with pleaſure, into a plain which extends to the eaſt, or rather to the north-eaſt of FAMAGUSTA, ſituated at the extremity of this plain, towards the ſea. There, was the ancient kingdom of SALAMIS, founded by TEUCER, companion to AJAX, who, on this ground, built a town which he called SALAMIS, from the name of the iſland where he was born*.

Some ruins announce, in an uncertain manner, the ſite of this ancient town, as the culture and fecundity of the plain, which is

* "*Nil deſperandum Teucro duce, et auſpice Teucro,*
"*Certus enim promiſit Apollo,*
"*Ambiguam tellure novâ Salamina futuram.*"
HOR. *lib. i. od. 7.*

ſtill the beſt diſtrict in the iſland, faintly atteſt what theſe formerly were.

About twenty leagues to the north-eaſt of FAMAGUSTA, in the middle of a vaſt plain and in the centre of the iſland, ſtands NICOSIA, which is its capital. This is now the reſidence of the governor, as it was formerly of the kings of CYPRUS. Their palaces, remarkable for the beauty of the architecture, experience the fate common to all the ancient edifices of which the Turks have made themſelves maſters, and which they abandon to deſtruction. The ſuperb church of SANTA SOFIA, in which the Chriſtian kings were crowned, has been degraded, in order to be converted into a moſque; and the habitation of thoſe ſovereigns, partly demoliſhed, and rebuilt in the eaſtern taſte, is the reſidence of the *moſelem* or governor. The ſituation of this town is agreeable; ſtreams are here abundant; and it is ſurrounded by fine gardens; its ſoil is excellent, and waits only for the hands of freemen to reſume the aſpect of proſperity of which it is ſuſceptible.

If we continue to follow the ſouth coaſt, we meet with another gulf, ſpacious indeed, yet leſs ſo than that of FAMAGUSTA. Ships there find the fine road of LARNICA, the moſt

frequented of the iſland. The town whoſe name it bears is at ſome diſtance from the ſea. There it is that the conſuls and merchants of European nations fix their reſidence, and, within theſe few years, trade was ſtill carried on there with ſome degree of activity. But, as if the Turk could leave no place without ſtamping on it the impreſſion of his diſaſtrous government, the environs of LARNICA no longer correſpond with the ſtill flouriſhing ſtate of its commerce. With the exception of the gardens, which adjoin to the town itſelf, and into which induſtry has found means to conduct fertilizing waters, the circumjacent fields are arid; their ſoil is poor and dried up; a few trees, ſcattered and inſulated, ſcarcely leave them the ſemblance of vegetation; barley alone grows there in ſome favoured diſtricts, and there is, every where, a want of water. Accordingly LARNICA is not a healthful abode; one is there expoſed to a ſuffocating heat. Yet foreſts of olive-trees formerly covered thoſe plains, at this day almoſt barren; and, as I have already mentioned, there are ſtill to be ſeen in the environs immenſe ciſterns, intended for preſerving the oil that they yielded.

Very near LARNICA was *CITIUM*, now CHITI, a celebrated town of antiquity. It was a colony of Phœnicians. Here was born the philoſopher ZENO, and here died CYMON, general of the Athenians. It is impoſſible to dig the ground in the environs of LARNICA, without meeting with the remains of the ancient town; but the ſuſpicious Turk, imagining that all the reſearches of ſcience or of curioſity have no other object than the diſcovery of ſome heap of buried gold, watches them with continual attention, and makes of them a ſubject of extortions; ſo that the antiquary very ſeldom dares to dig for the objects of his purſuit, and the riches which the earth conceals remain buried there with the knowledge which hiſtory and the arts would thence obtain, till the time when the heavy yoke of the Turks ſhall ceaſe to pollute and deface countries formerly ſo brilliant.

The hamlet of the SALTERNS is but half a league from LARNICA. It has obtained its name from a large lake near the ſea, at this day half-choked up, and wherein is formed ſalt, which is ſtill an article of trade. In the fine roadſtead of the SALTERNS, the veſſels

laden for the capital of the iſland, and the ſhips of war deſtined to protect them, come to an anchor. At this place the merchants of LARNICA have their ſtorehouſes.

LIMASSOL, formerly NEMOSIA, is now but a miſerable city, full of ruins and rubbiſh. Its harbour is, nevertheleſs, not a little frequented; here veſſels load with grain, cotton, and other productions of the earth. The beſt wines are made in its environs, and it is the emporium of all thoſe of the iſland who are concerned in trade.

Not far from this town, if, however, LIMASSOL deſerve that appellation, ſtood the ancient LIMASSOL, which, ſtill more anciently, was called *AMATHUS*, celebrated for a temple conſecrated to VENUS and ADONIS, and in which, according to PAUSANIAS, was preſerved a rich necklace of precious ſtones, ornamented with gold, the work of VULCAN, and given in the firſt inſtance to HERMIONE*. But this ancient town is deſtroyed; like PAPHOS, CYTHERA, the charming IDALIUM, and other places which the Graces embelliſhed, it is effaced from the ſoil of the Iſland of CYPRUS; and, in lieu of the ſweet and ſmiling

* Liv. ix.—*Voyage de la Béotie*, vol. ii. page 316.

are perceived from the heights of CERINES. The communication between this harbour and the port of SELEFSKI, whoſe name recalls to mind that of SELEUCIA in CILICIA, is frequent; in order to render it more ſo, there are two packets ſolely deſtined for this ſhort navigation, which, nevertheleſs, was profitable, and which was in the hands of the French.

Such, in a few words, is the geographical deſcription of an iſland, which, in former times, divided into nine kingdoms, paſſed ſucceſſively under the domination of the Egyptians, the Phœnicians, the Perſians, the Macedonians, the Romans, the Europeans of the WEST, and the Arabs. The cruſades rendered it the appendage of ſome princes of EUROPE, who gave it up to the Venetians. Sultan SELIM ſnatched it from them in 1570; and, ſince that epoch, it has made a part of the Ottoman empire, in order to be again ſevered from it, and expoſed to freſh viciſſitudes, inſeparable from human inſtitutions. Nothing is ſtable in Nature but Nature herſelf; and the more men deviate from her by the exceſs of civilization, if I may ſo expreſs myſelf, the more are ſocial forms ſubject to vary, and expoſed to innovations.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER V.

Picture of the preſent ſituation of the Iſland of Cyprus.—Galéode aranéoïde, *an enormous ſpider of a very dangerous nature.—The conqueſt of the Iſland of* Cyprus *would have ſingularly favoured that of* Egypt.

IT is not only in regard to the productions of the ſoil, that Nature is counteracted in the Iſland of CYPRUS, and that her bounties are diſavowed and rejected. The rigours of an oppreſſive domination have ſhed their baneful influence over fields, arts, and men. Every day we ſee commerce fail, induſtry decay, lands dry up, and agriculture become impoveriſhed. Vallies, once ſhaded by uſeful or agreeable trees, which culture enriched with harveſts of every ſpecies, or adorned with verdure or flowers, now remain uncultivated, and over-run with brambles and other ſtubborn, meagre, and uſeleſs plants. One may travel whole days in plains deſerted and abandoned to that mournful and pernicious fecundity,

fecundity, which, on lands impatient to produce, is ſterility's conſtant companion; in factitious waſtes, the gloomy and fatal effect of the power of the evil-minded, where the traveller would think himſelf buried in vaſt ſolitudes, did he not, here and there, perceive ſtraggling flocks and ſcattered habitations. Every day too we ſee population, which increaſes and ſettles only where are to be found abundance of proviſions, activity of trade and of manufactures, and juſtice on the part of the government, diminiſh in a perceptible manner; and men quit a deſolated country, and, for the moſt part, ſeek ſpots leſs diſturbed, abodes leſs unhappy.

The animals which conſtitute the wealth or the pleaſures of man, are here leſs numerous and of a breed leſs handſome than formerly. The affluence of the owners imparts to domeſtic animals the qualities which make them valuable; on the contrary, they degenerate, when they no longer have any thing to ſhare with their maſters but a painful and uncomfortable exiſtence. And, indeed, there are now ſcarcely to be ſeen here any of thoſe horſes of diſtinguiſhed race, deſcendants of the courſers of ARABIA, and no leſs famous for their vigour than their fleetneſs, nor any of

of thoſe beautiful greyhounds renowned for their ardour and their addreſs in the chace. Both theſe are no longer to be found except in a few families, which ſtill preſerve the remains of their ancient opulence. Cattle are not to be ſeen here in plenty, as in former times; nor do flocks of ſheep with broad and trailing tails, or of goats, whoſe hair ſerved for making fine camlets, now repair, in ſuch great numbers, to the declivity of hills clothed with ſucculent herbs; nor do they now ſo much enliven ſolitary ſpots, where they feed in full tranquillity, and which Nature ſeems to have intended for the ſimple and pure charms of paſtoral life.

The ſilk-worm, deprived of part of its food, in half-ruined plantations of mulberry-trees, now no more multiplies with ſo much profuſion; and families of kermes, rivals of the cochineal inſect, ſcarcely any longer furniſh colouring ſubſtance to our manufactories. Game is alſo leſs common, and birds of paſſage come not now, in ſuch conſiderable flights, to alight on lands, which afford them not the ſame ſhelter, nor the ſame abundance. The ſea even ceaſes to furniſh ſo many reſources to the inhabitants of the iſland; not that a deſtructive power has been able to penetrate

netrate into the very boſom of the waters: thoſe which bathe the coaſts are ſtill extremely full of fiſh; but hands and activity are wanting for the fiſhery, as well as for the other branches of induſtry and commerce.

If every thing that is good and uſeful has ſuffered and decayed in CYPRUS, every thing that is of no value or miſchievous has there proſpered. Snakes, which delight in thickets or under rubbiſh, there propagate at their eaſe, and it will ſoon be neceſſary again to have recourſe to cats in order to clear the fields of them. Hurtful and hideous inſects increaſe and freely elaborate their venom under the damp and warm ſhade of the ruins; tarantulæ, with a black and hairy body and yellow and brilliant eyes, are not here uncommon; and here is alſo to be met with, though but very ſeldom indeed, that frightful ſpider, whoſe aſpect alone terrifies, whoſe venom ſtrikes with death whomſoever it reaches, whoſe natural hiſtory, in ſhort, is yet little known.

The firſt thing to be done, when we mean to ſpeak of an animal of which ſome naturaliſts have already made mention, is to unravel its nomenclature; and, indeed, this is a taſk very ungracious, very minute, and which

which can please none but contracted and pedantic minds. Although few authors have written on the ugly and dangerous insect in question, each of them has imposed on it a different denomination, the most certain mean of their never coming to a right understanding with each other. Amid this confusion and this continual and arbitrary substitution of names*, I shall fix on that of *galéode*, which Olivier, a celebrated naturalist and traveller, has given to this species of spider, in order to distinguish it from the other species, from which it is, in fact, very different†; this is a deference due to an estimable man of learning, and at the same time a service to the science of Nature, which, if we chose to believe some people, more attached to words

* M. Pallas has called this spider; *Phalangium aranéoïdes (Spicil. Zool. fascicul.* 9, page 37, tab. iii, fig. 7, 8, and 9). M. Fabricius, from Lichtenstein, another foreign naturalist, has given it the name of *solpuga araneoides. (Supplément Entomol.* page 294). This same denomination of *solpuga* has been adopted, with the epithet *arachnodes*, by M. Herbst, known principally by a good work on crustaceous animals, in a very extensive Memoir, which he has recently published at *Berlin* on this subject, *(page* 37, *tab.* i, *fig.* 2).

† *Galéode aranéoïde, (Encyclop. Méthod. Hist. Nat. des Insectes).*

than

than to things, would ſoon be nothing more than the barren knowledge of arbitrary names, and phraſes equally dry and inſignificant.

The notions that the ancients have tranſmitted to us reſpecting the various animals with which they were acquainted, and particularly inſects, are, generally ſpeaking, too vague and too incomplete for us to be enabled to aſſign with certainty to what animal each of them belongs. It appears to me a rather bold conjecture, to decide with M. HERBST*, that the frightful ſpider or the *galéode* of the LEVANT (See *Plate III.*) is the inſect which the Greek and Latin authors have named *ſphalangium*, *phalangium*, *ſolifuga*, *ſolpuga*, *tetragnathium*, and *mus araneus*. Indeed, thoſe authors have given to ſeveral ſpecies of ſpiders† the name of *ſphalangium* or *phalangium*, which modern naturaliſts have reſerved for the ſpiders alone with long legs, with the head confounded with the corſelet, and of which a very common ſpecies is the *faucheur* of our countries. Neither does the *ſolfuga* or *ſolpuga* appear to me to be the *galéode*; the literal ſignification of this name

* Memoir before quoted.

† ŒTIUS and others have applied the name of *phalangia* to ſix ſpecies of ſpiders.

is *ſun-ſhunner*, and it has been equally applied to a ſpecies of ant and to a ſpecies of ſpider; but the *ſolfuga* ſpider is an inſect extremely ſmall (*animal perexiguum*), which is frequently found in SARDINIA, in the ſilver-mines, which creeps into the dark, and whoſe bite is venemous*: now, the *galéode* is not a very ſmall inſect, it avoids not the broad day, and is not found, or at leaſt no one has ſaid that it was found, in the Iſland of SARDINIA. It is ſcarcely more poſſible to recognize it in the account which PLINY has left us of the *tetragnathium* or ſpider with four jaws, and which that naturaliſt divides into two ſpecies; the one, and this is the moſt dangerous, having on the middle of the head two white lines; and the other, whoſe movement is ſlower, having the body cinereous and whitiſh at its extremity†. As for the *mus araneus*, or the ſpider-rat of the ancient naturaliſts, it is deſcribed in their writings, as a quadruped, in ſuch a manner as not to be miſtaken: this is the ſpider-rat, an animal well known, and which the ancients may have eaſily obſerved; whereas it is not certain

* SOLINUS, according to PLINY, *Polythiſt. cap.* ix.

† PLIN. Hiſt. Nat lib. xxix. cap. iv.

that they have had a knowledge of the *galéode*; an inſect fortunately very ſeldom found in the warmeſt regions of EUROPE and ASIA.

I have taken the liberty of making theſe critical remarks only to ſhew, that, according to every appearance, the *galéode* was unknown to the ancients; and to give a freſh proof of the difficulty of adapting, with preciſion, the greater part of the notes ſcattered in their works, to the animals whoſe hiſtory we are now writing. However it may be with reſpect to theſe probabilities, in inquiring into which we loſe much time, while we run the riſk of being bewildered, faithful to the plan which I have marked out for myſelf, to collect obſervations and facts, before I reaſon on the origin of denominations, and loſe myſelf in vague conjectures, I ſhall give, in a few words, the deſcription of the *galéode aranéoïde*, or ſcorpion-ſpider, which I had an opportunity of obſerving in the LEVANT, and report what is known reſpecting this miſchievous inſect.

Some very prominent characters approximate it to the *phalangium*; its head is, in like manner, confounded with the corſelet, and the piece of which they are compoſed is nearly in the form of a truncated cone, whoſe baſe is placed in front, and ſerves as an anterior border:

der: in the middle of this border is a blackiſh tubercle with two eyes, which appeared to me to be facetwiſe; between them, and in front, are remarked two other little tubercles, which might alſo be taken for eyes; however, I do not imagine that they are really ſo, but I conſider them rather as peduncles of eye-laſhes or thick hairs, ſome of which, ſeen through the magnifier, appeared truncated and tubular.

To this piece, which ſupplies the place of head and corſelet, are attached the organs of nutrition, and two pairs of arms or antennulæ. Two enormous jaws, which the modern French entomologiſts call *mandibules*, at firſt ſtrike the eye; they are larger than the piece itſelf, or the head, in front of which they are fixed; their form is conical; they adhere to each other by their inner ſide; they are hairy, entire, and not bent like thoſe of the *faucheur*; each of theſe jaws is terminated by two brown nippers, ſcaly, notched underneath, ending in a point, bowed in a contrary direction, and croſſing each other at their extremity. I examined them both with a lens of great power, and I diſcovered no opening that could ſerve as a drain for a poiſonous liquor, as is perceived in the claws of ſpiders. It is nevertheleſs very certain that this inſect is venemous

mous to an exceſs, which leads us to preſume that the holes through which its venom is emitted, are extremely ſmall, and at the ſame time that the poiſon which exudes from them, is of an extremely active nature, ſince the very minute portion which can flow from an imperceptible opening, is ſufficient to occaſion death.

At the origin of the nippers, and underneath them, iſſues a ſmall ſcaly, cylindrical net, terminated in a point, thrown back, and laid on the top of the ſupport of the nippers or on the mandible; I am ſpeaking only of the individual which I more particularly obſerved; for I preſume that this appendage is no more than one of the diſtinctive characters of the ſex; underneath theſe ſame mandibles, and in the interval that ſeparates them, is perceived a ſmall body, which FABRICIUS calls a *lip in the form of a ſucker*. This body appeared to me compoſed of a little ſhank, having at its extremity two cylindrical, hairy pieces, cloſe to each other.

The two pairs of arms or antennulæ are inſerted in the lower part of this piece, which I have ſaid replaces, in the *phalangia* in general, and in the *galéode* in particular, the head and the corſelet; theſe arms are compoſed

poſed of a ſeries of joints, almoſt all cylindrical, beſet with long hairs, ſome even with teeth, and faſhioned much in the ſame manner, except that the anterior arms are larger, and have, beſides, at their extremity, a ſort of knob, or ſhort and round joint, which, according to OLIVIER, ſhould indicate a male.

Before I paſs to the belly or the abdomen of the inſect, I muſt obſerve that there exiſts between it and the corſelet an intermediate piece, ſerving as a faſtening to four pairs of feet, which differ eſſentially from the arms, by their having, in addition, a tarſus formed by two or three joints, and at the extremity of which are two toes, bent, long, and each provided with a ſmall brown, ſcaly hook. The feet, reckoning from thoſe which are the neareſt to the arms, ſucceſſively increaſe in ſize; ſo that the laſt are very long. Theſe have, in other reſpects, a particularity very remarkable; on the lower ſide of the part which, by compariſon with other animals, might be called the hip, are diſcovered four ſingular appendages: theſe are membranous bodies, very thin, and tranſparent, formed by a ſmall pedicle, which is ſurmounted by a piece almoſt triangular, bent, and concave. A better compariſon cannot be made of theſe

appendages than to the half of a funnel, which has been cut in its height; they approximate the *galéodes* to the ſcorpions, which have, as is well known, two bodies in the form of a comb, placed near the hind feet.

The abdomen is fixed to the piece which anſwers to the corſelet, not by a ſhort pedicle, as in ſpiders, but by its greateſt tranſverſal diameter; it alſo differs from the abdomen of ſpiders, from its having inciſions or rings, whereas the coat of that of ſpiders is whole and continuous.

The *galéode*, whoſe length is about an inch, has a body of a livid yellow, and beſet with long hairs, and even with prickly ones in ſeveral places. It runs with prodigious ſwiftneſs, and thus more eaſily eſcapes its deſtruction, in which mankind are intereſted, its bite being very dangerous, as I have already mentioned, and its venom very ſubtle. The parts which are attacked by it ſwell in an inſtant, and occaſion exceſſive pain, followed by certain death, if proper remedies be not ſpeedily employed. Thoſe which are moſt effectual, are oil, as a topical application, together with cordials and ſudorifics, taken internally.

The *galéode aranéoïde*, or ſcorpion-ſpider, is met with in ſeveral parts of the LEVANT, in ARABIA,

ARABIA, in SYRIA, in PERSIA, in ASIA MINOR, and even in the country compriſed between the DON and the VOLGA, in the environs of the CASPIAN SEA, and whoſe temperature is much warmer than might be expected, in ſuch northerly regions. Theſe filthy inſects are there becoming more and more common; M. PALLAS ſaw two of them in a houſe which he occupied at ZARIZYN, and he was informed that ſeveral had been killed in the habitation of the commandant of that fortreſs, during the ſtay that he made there. However, there was only one perſon who was bitten by it, but he was ſaved by the timely aſſiſtance given him, and he experienced no other bad conſequences than a large ſwelling and ſome ſharp pains*. The Arabs, who are acquainted with no remedy for the bite of this inſect, dread it extremely.

It is undoubtedly almoſt needleſs to mention that an animal, or rather a four-footed monſter, of the ſize of a horſe, and, in other reſpects, ſimilar to a ſnake, the *laminga*, which DAPPER, according to another author equally

* Travels of M. P. S PALLAS in different provinces of the empire of RUSSIA, and in northern ASIA, tranſlated by GAUTHIER DE LA PEYRONE'E, 5 vol. 4to. page 313.

credulous, affirms to exiſt on Mount OLYMPUS, and to devour men, is only an imaginary being, engendered by impoſture and credulity. The Iſland of CYPRUS is afflicted with a ſufficient number of real ills, without our endeavouring to increaſe them by imaginary ſcourges.

But the greater part, as well as the moſt conſiderable, of theſe ills, are vices and diſorders of the adminiſtration: ſhould the Iſland of CYPRUS ceaſe to be a prey to the violence and groſs incapacity of the government which tears it to pieces; ſhould repairing hands come thither to ſecond the efforts of Nature, who has done ſo much for this intereſting iſland, the ſplendour with which it formerly ſhone, and its ancient proſperity, would revive, and it would ſtill be again found one of the richeſt and moſt agreeable countries in the world.

And had circumſtances allowed, had it been poſſible to obtain the conſent of the PORTE, or could it have been foreſeen that reſpect for that reſtleſs, ſuſpicious power, led away by the inſinuations of the enemies of FRANCE, could have ſerved only to excite its reſentment, the conqueſt of the Iſland of CYPRUS ought, perhaps, to have preceded that of EGYPT. The French would there have found abun-

dant means of ſubſiſtence, and in the Greeks, by whom it is inhabited, zealous partiſans, friends who would have welcomed and aſſiſted them, inſtead of barbarians whom it was neceſſary to fight and ſlaughter; no obſtacle would have oppoſed the landing of the army; the fortified places which are there to be found are diſmantled, and ſo deſtitute of troops and military ſtores, that they could not have made any reſiſtance. Numerous harhours, which it would have been eaſy to put into a reſpectable ſtate of defence, would have preſerved the fleet ſecure from all attack; ſhips, cruiſing in the ſea of SYRIA, would have blocked up all its ports; and when the moment ſhould have been thought favourable, theſe ſame ſhips would, in a very little time, have conveyed to the coaſt of EGYPT, an army already accuſtomed to the heat of the climate, and reinforced by Cypriots*. The debarkation being effected, the fleet would have abandoned the dangerous ſhores of ALEXANDRIA, and regained the roads of CYPRUS. An eaſy, quick, and continual communication, which

* The Iſland of *Cyprus* is ſcarcely ſeventy leagues from *Alexandria*, and the current carries veſſels thither very rapidly.

it

it would ſcarcely have been poſſible for the enemy to intercept, would have been eſtabliſhed between the two colonies; the iſland would have furniſhed the continent with proviſions, other ſupplies, and particularly wood, in which EGYPT is deficient: the ſmall number of uſeful trees which adorn and cool the plains of this latter country, would not have been ſacrificed to the wants of the army, and to military erections; the enemy would not have had the facility of eſtabliſhing himſelf at ST. JEAN D'ACRE; deſcents would have been effected, as it were, on every point of the coaſt of SYRIA; the deſert which ſeparates it from EGYPT would not have coſt the lives of many brave men in marches exceſſively laborious, acroſs arid and burning plains which there is no drop of water to moiſten; in ſhort, to the glory of breaking the chains of two nations, oppreſſed and degraded by ages of ſlavery, we ſhould have added the happineſs of reſtoring to liberty, and to their former proſperity, a people who are not unworthy of thoſe bleſſings, and whoſe gratitude would have been manifeſted towards their deliverers, by every ſort of aſſiſtance and every act of devotion.

The reſources which the poſſeſſion of the Iſland of CYPRUS would have afforded for the conqueſt

conqueſt of EGYPT, would have extended to its preſervation; they would have ſecured and conſolidated the acquiſition of a country, which, from its poſition, is the key and the emporium of the commerce of three parts of the world, and of which the Roman emperors, who were acquainted with its importance, were ſo jealous, that they ſtrictly forbad the entrance of it to ſenators and generals who had not obtained their expreſs permiſſion for that purpoſe, from an apprehenſion that the prodigious fecundity and the delights of that beautiful and rich country might lead them to attempt uſurpation.

This plan of an expedition, however brilliant, however advantageous it may appear, was not practicable, no doubt, ſince it was not adopted; it could not indeed eſcape the penetrating eye and the profound combinations of that man of genius who certainly perceived, in its execution, obſtacles ſufficiently powerful for rejecting it; in fact, it could not but have been pleaſing to him to emancipate from the moſt tyrannical oppreſſion, and to reſtore to its ancient ſtate of ſplendour, a country to which its flouriſhing ſituation had occaſioned to be given the epithet *happy*, the juſt application of which is ſo valuable and ſo rare;

and we muſt ſuppoſe that political conſiderations of great weight oppoſed this more extenſive development of the views which directed the expedition to EGYPT.

However, and it is ſufficiently manifeſt, the ideas which I have juſt traced, the reſult of my obſervations on the very places, and of my meditations, can have no merit but in the eyes of philoſophy; and it is well known that philoſophy is frequently at variance with political arrangements. Little accuſtomed to the latter, I am ſcarcely acquainted with any policy but that of humanity, the ſtudy of which has been eaſy to me; I have found it in my heart.....But I reſume the ſequel of my narration.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VI.

Captain of the polacre.—Goat-ſucker.—Coaſt of Caramania. — Caſtel-Roſſo. — *Birds.* — *Currents.—Turkiſh caravel.—Turkiſh navy.* —*Efforts of the Turks for improving their navy.—Want of foreſight of* France.—*Bonito.—Danger incurred by the polacre.—Put into* Rhodes.—*Gulf of* Macri.

ON the 19th of October, that is, the third day after our departure from ALEXANDRIA, the weſterly wind, which blew directly in our teeth from the Iſland of CANDIA, whither we were bound, drove us out of our courſe, although it was not yet very violent, nor the ſea very high. Our little veſſel, which ſailed rather ill, did not work much better; and from my converſations with the captain, I had no reaſon to conceive a high idea of his ſkill in navigation. He related to me, for inſtance, as a very ſimple event, that the preceding year he had loſt, on the coaſt of SICILY,

CILY, the veſſel, which he then commanded, becauſe, having made a miſtake in his reckoning, he thought himſelf far from the land, at the very moment when ſhe was caſt away on it. But his features changed, his voice faultered, and big tears, long-reſtrained, fell from his eyes, and trickled down the wrinkles with which age had furrowed his face, when he ſpoke to me of another accident, in the recollection of which he was wholly abſorbed. A few years ago his only ſon, who ſailed with him in theſe ſame ſeas of the LEVANT, had, in a heavy gale, been cruſhed to death under his eyes, between the veſſel and the boat. He was inconſolable at this loſs, and his head was really affected by it.

This day there was taken, on the after-part of the veſſel's deck, a goatſucker, a bird which, notwithſtanding its incapacity to fly far, and the weakneſs of its eyes, is not, on that account, the leſs a roving bird *.

On the 20th, we began to diſcover the coaſt of CARAMANIA; we were then toſſed about by a very heavy ſea, raiſed by an impetuous

* *Engoulevent.* BUFFON, Hiſt. Nat. des Oiſeaux, et *crapaud-volant* des planches enluminées, No. 193, fig. 2.—*Caprimulgus Europæus.* LINN.

and

and ſtill contrary wind. We continued to ſtand in for the land, in order to take advantage of the light breezes which blow thence during the night, for a veſſel might ſtruggle inthe offing, a long time and in vain, againſt the weſterly winds, common in theſe ſeas. However, this coaſt of the part of CARAMANIA, which anciently formed PAMPHYLIA, is ſafe, according to the ſeaman's phraſe; I mean that it is waſhed by deep waters, and that ſhips may range very cloſely along it, without fear of running aground. It is, in general, elevated, arid, and much broken by numerous interſections; but behind this coaſt, mountains, clothed with a gloomy green, announced that they are covered with wood. There, in fact, grow vaſt foreſts, an important reſource for ſhip-building, and which the Turks neglect or deſtroy, as it were, for the ſake of deſtruction.

The moſt eaſtern cape of the Gulf of SATALIA, anciently *ATTALIA*, from the name of ATTALUS PHILADELPHUS, king of PERGAMUS, who had there founded a colony, lay ahead of our veſſel; we ſoon ſaw the little Iſland of CASTEL-ROSSO, oppoſite the promontory which bore the name of *Sacred*, and the moſt advanced towards the ſouth of this part

part of the coaſt, from which it is ſcarcely ſeparated. A very good harbour is there open to navigators; but, within it, is a great depth of water, and veſſels are obliged to anchor in ſixty or eighty fathoms. On the ſummit of the rock, which forms this iſland, is a fortified caſtle; but nothing is to be ſeen there that has any reference to its preſent denomination; nothing red appears there; and we may preſume, with the learned Engliſh traveller POCOCK, that this is the iſland near which there was a road for ſhipping, and which PLINY calls *ROGE* *, a denomination of which has been made, by corruption, in Italian *Rosso*, and *ROUGE* in French †.

A flock of little land-birds, whoſe ſpecies I could not diſtinguiſh, ſkimmed along the ſurface of the water, directing their courſe to the ſouth, and, like ſo many other travelling families of the ſame claſs, proceeded to the warm plains of EGYPT, in order to paſs there the winter. A conſiderable flight of crows, likewiſe come from the lands of CARAMANIA, followed the ſame direction, but flew at a greater height.

* Lib. viii. cap. xxxv.

† Pocock's Travels, book iv. chap. i.

We

We remarked, and this obſervation is well known to navigators who frequent theſe ſeas, that, along the coaſt of CARAMANIA, the currents ſet to the ſouth-weſt; their impulſe was favourable to us, and diminiſhed the action of the weſterly wind, which did not quit us during the day. However, it had loſt much of its ſtrength; from the morning of the 22d the ſea had fallen, and the different aſpects of the land, which our continual change of ſituation rendered very diverſified, made of our voyage an agreeable excurſion. Towards the ſea, we alſo had objects which interrupted its tireſome ſameneſs: ſome veſſels were ſailing near ours, and in the midſt of them roſe, like a floating mountain, a caravel belonging to the Grand Signior: thus are called the ſhips of war of the Turkiſh navy; their elevation above the water is exceſſive; their ſtern is, beſides, of a diſproportionate height. This ſtructure, which gives great hold to the wind even on the hull of the veſſel, occaſions her to be difficult to manage, and expoſes her to make conſiderable lee-way, as well as to all the violence of the ſhocks of a heavy ſea: in an action, the enemy's ſhot find a greater ſurface to ſtrike; the veſſel is a heavy ſailer, and not ſure in

ſtays; added to this, the rigging is incomplete and confounded; the artillery, entirely of braſs, is compoſed of pieces of different calibres, which makes it tedious and difficult to ſerve them, and the gun-decks, being always lumbered, likewiſe clog a ſervice, which the difference of the weight of metal neceſſarily renders confuſed. From ſuch great defects in the conſtruction and rigging of the Turkiſh men of war, and even the nature of the wood with which they are built, it is eaſy to remark the infancy or rather the barbariſm of navigation.

And the men who conduct theſe ſhapeleſs maſſes, are alſo the moſt ignorant in the world. There are few among them who are familiarly acquainted with the uſe of the compaſs, who know how to find and mark their route on a chart, who are capable of obſerving the altitude of the ſun above the horizon, when it paſſes the meridian, in order to aſcertain the latitude; nor is there one who has any idea of geography. It may be remembered that, in the courſe of the laſt war between the Ruſſians and the Turks, it was impoſſible to perſuade the latter that the Ruſſian fleets could reach CONSTANTINOPLE, by another route than by the BLACK SEA. In vain was pointed out

out to them on the chart the route which brought ſhips from the BALTIC into the ARCHIPELAGO; the divan, in which ſat the high admiral himſelf, perſiſted in conſidering the thing as impracticable; and it was not till the enemy's fleet arrived in the ſeas of TURKEY, that the poſſibility of this voyage began to obtain credit.

Accordingly ſhipwrecks, accidents of every ſort, frequently happen in the very confined courſe of voyages ſo ill-directed; and if ſome of the mariners diſplay more capacity or experience, theſe are not Turks; they are natives of BARBARY or Greeks. The latter furniſh all the pilots to the Ottoman navy, and, among the modern Greeks, are diſcovered the deſcendants of thoſe who were the maſters of the Romans in the art of navigation. But, whatever may be their diſpoſitions, and even their long and ancient practice in the carrying-trade, they can by no means be conſidered as ſkilful ſeamen, and they are deficient in inſtruction, without which it is impoſſible to become ſo.

Yet to their hands were intruſted almoſt all the merchant-ſhips belonging to the Turks; and the latter had no great confidence in them; independently of the fear with which

they were inſpired by the Malteſe armaments, they almoſt always preferred loading their goods on board European veſſels; the government itſelf alſo gave a preference to foreign ſhipping, particularly in regard to ſupplying the capital with proviſions, an object on which the miniſtry have always had their eyes, becauſe when it happens to fail, inſurrections and misfortunes ſpread in a tumultuous and frequently-agitated city.

However, the Turks, inſtructed by the ill fortune of a war diſaſtrous to their navy, made, within theſe few years, ſome efforts for extricating it from its rude infancy; in dock-yards, under the direction of ſkilful French builders, drier and ſounder wood was employed in conſtructing ſhips on a more advantageous ſcale. The court of VERSAILLES made a preſent to that of CONSTANTINOPLE of a ſhip of the line and of ſeveral frigates, with the uſe of which, in fleets, the Turks were unacquainted; while French engineers eſtabliſhed ſchools of navigation and cannon-founderies. Such policy could originate only in improvident minds; the very flouriſhing trade, which enriched the French in the LEVANT, had no other baſis than the ignorance and puſillanimity of the Turks: by inſtructing them to diſpenſe

diſpenſe with foreign aid, to aſcend to the rank of enlightened nations, was to teach them to do without us; it was to pave the way to the ruin of our commerce, and to prepare for us a formidable enemy in a people who, till then, had nothing to oppoſe to us but weakneſs and inexperience.

The rage for ſetting ourſelves up as inſtructors to foreign nations, a rage ſpecious from an appearance of greatneſs and generoſity, and which, in reality, is but the fruit of a falſe philoſophy and of erroneous combinations, has frequently become fatal to us; and to go no farther than the example with which the Ottomans furniſh us of this truth, can it be ſuppoſed that, at the preſent day, they would have ventured to declare againſt us a maritime war, in which they diſplay remarkable activity, had they not been inſtructed, in our own ſchool, in the art of fighting us? It is to our leſſons alone that they owe the ſucceſs which they have had againſt us, rather than to the advice and aſſiſtance of other nations, which would never have been able to derive any advantage from this, had it not been taught long ago to know its ſtrength and to make uſe of it.

The preſentiment of what has happened in our days had not eſcaped the genius of a great philoſopher, who, under the agreeable and light maſk of pleaſantry, knew how to diſguiſe and preſent truth, and the criticiſm of the follies of governments. The reader may recollect thoſe lines of VOLTAIRE, in which he anſwers a bookſeller who offers him a new work on military tactics:

" *Allez, de Belzébuth déteſtable libraire,*
" *Portez votre tactique au chevalier de Tott,*
" *Qui fait marcher les Turcs au nom de Sabaoth;*
" *C'eſt lui qui de canons couvrant les Dardanelles,*
" *A tuer les chrétiens inſtruit les infidèles* *."

But in vain does Philoſophy raiſe her voice; ſhe is not, in general, heard but by thoſe whoſe power is limited to the practice of her precepts in obſcurity, and who have no influence

* ATTEMPTED IN ENGLISH.

Vender of books, deteſtable as hell,
To Chevalier de Tott thy tactics ſell,
That vile artificer of murd'rous work,
The war's whole art expoſing to the Turk,
That infidels may learn to guard their ſhore,
And bathe their impious hands in chriſtian gore.
Tranſlator.

in

in public affairs. It is not that people do not often borrow her language, and endeavour to dreſs themſelves in her livery; but every thing is confined to ſteril declamation, and deceitful appearances; and as, in theſe latter times, true liberty was never more miſunderſtood than ſince it was inceſſantly talked of, philoſophy is likewiſe in every mouth, and is ſeldom reduced to action. A dark and wavering policy ſupplies her place: yet hiſtory repreſents to us the latter as a powerful weapon in the hands of Ambition, when it is wiſhed to ſport with the fate of nations, and tear human nature to pieces*.

On the 22d, towards the evening, a multitude of fiſhes of the ſmall ſpecies of tunney, which the French ſeamen of the MEDITERRANEAN call *palamide*† (bonito), appeared all at once near the ſhip; they divided with extreme rapidity the ſurface of the waves, which they cauſed to bubble, and they darted ſometimes out of the water by quick and tumultuous leaps; theſe ſudden paſſages of fiſhes, ſwimming in cloſe columns, are, in the eyes of navigators, a certain preſage of bad wea-

* This was written before the 18th Brumaire.

† *Scomber pelamis.*—LINN.

ther. In fact, the ſky was charged with vapours, and the horizon began to be covered with clouds, which, to the north-weſt, were interſected by ſome vivid and repeated flaſhes of lightning. The captain, faint and trembling, told me that it was uncommon to fail in theſe ſeas, without encountering ſome violent ſtorm; he added that, the year before, he had been caught in a gale of wind, which had put him in the greateſt danger. In conſequence, he ordered ſeveral ſails to be taken in, although the weather was yet very fine, and employed ſome precautions which were not attended with great ſucceſs.

After having exhorted my timid ſkipper to courage and vigilance, I went to bed and fell into a ſound ſleep. But on the 22d, at two o'clock in the morning, I was awakened by a great noiſe and by cries of "*The axes, "the axes! Cut! cut away!*" I ſprang on deck, and I ſaw that, notwithſtanding his alarms and precautions, the captain had not the leſs ſuffered himſelf to be ſurpriſed by a very heavy ſquall, which, burſting all at once on the veſſel, ſtill preſſed with more ſail than ſhe could carry, had overpowered her to ſuch a degree that ſhe was almoſt half under water, and on the point of being entirely buried

buried in the waves. We contrived to right her, by cutting ſome of the running rigging and ſplitting a ſail; a few moments more, and we ſhould have been ſwallowed up. I complimented the captain on his ſkill, and returned to my bed, fully promiſing myſelf not to make a long voyage, under the guidance of ſuch ſeamen.

In the morning, we found ourſelves near RHODES; a freſh breeze from the north-weſt and a heavy ſea prevented us from following our route. Obliged to ply to windward with a bad veſſel, we laboured a great deal without gaining any way; the ſame obſtacles only continuing to increaſe, the captain, tired of making uſeleſs efforts, determined to enter the harbour of RHODES, where we anchored on the 24th, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

I obſerved that the coaſt of CARAMANIA, from CASTEL-ROSSO to the entrance of the Gulf of MACRI, is leſs elevated than that which is to the eaſtward of this iſland; but it is equally perpendicular, divided by large ravines, and of a rock white and arid.

The caravel, of which we had not loſt ſight, made ſail in order to enter the Gulf of MACRI, where ſhe found an anchorage more ſuitable

able than that of RHODES. This great bight is oppoſite to the city of RHODES, and to the eaſt of it; the ancients called it *GLAUCUS SINUS*, from the name of the river *GLAUCUS*, which diſcharges its waters into it. A town of CARIA, of which PLINY has made mention*, has given it its preſent denomination, which the navigators of PROVENCE diſfigure by that of *MÈGRE, Golfe de la MÈGRE*. At the head of this gulf are diſcovered ſome very fine remains of antiquity, in the ruins of the ancient town of *TELMISSUS*. M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER has deſcribed and cauſed to be drawn ſome parts of them in his ſuperb work on GREECE†. In it are to be ſeen the magnificent fragments of a theatre and ſome funeral monuments that atteſt the grandeur and opulence of TELMISSUS, which time and the Turks have converted into heaps of rubbiſh.

The Gulf of MACRI affords to ſhipping excellent havens, capable of containing fleets. There are ſome very retired, which were frequented by a few veſſels concerned in the *caravane* or carrying-trade, during the three

* *Glaucumque verſus annem Laguſa, Macris, Didyma.*—PLIN. lib. cap. xxxi.

† *Voyage Pittoreſque de la Grèce.*—Vol. i. page 116 and following.

winter

winter months when navigation in the ARCHIPELAGO is ſlack, and more dangerous. There, they paſſed the bad ſeaſon in full ſecurity; the crews were employed in refitting the veſſels, and in cutting wood, with which they loaded them in order to convey it to places where it was wanted, and where they ſold it. This wood coſt only the trouble of felling it; the fineſt trees were at the diſpoſal of the firſt comer; and I have been always aſtoniſhed that FRANCE never thought of procuring timber for ſhip-building in theſe great inſulated foreſts, the preſervation of which no one ſuperintended. Theſe ſolitary winter-retreats were not without amuſements; the abundance and variety of game and fiſh checquered the pleaſure of ſhooting and fiſhing, and the reſources of the table; on the other hand, no interruption was to be apprehended on the part of the inhabitants; and this is not a trifling advantage in a country where men are the moſt dangerous of all the living beings that can be met with.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VII.

Vice-conſul of Rhodes.—*Conſuls in the* Levant.—*Bad policy of the French government towards the Turks.—Iſland and city of* Rhodes.—*Rats.—Dock-yards.—Coloſſus of* Rhodes.—*Statues.—Climate and fertility of the iſland.—Its names.—Compariſon of its former ſtate with its preſent ſituation.*

MORE fatigued by the melancholy ſolitude of my little veſſel than by the inconveniences which I had experienced, I haſtened to quit her as ſoon as the anchor was dropped in the harbour of RHODES. I preſented myſelf at the houſe of the French Vice-conſul, the only one of the nations of EUROPE who reſided in the iſland. He did not live in the city of RHODES, but took up his reſidence, without the walls of the town, in a ſmall Greek village, which may be conſidered as a ſuburb. At M***'s, I experienced the moſt polite reception and civilities beyond thoſe which routine has conſecrated, and which, nevertheleſs,

travellers

travellers do not always meet with. We ſee but too frequently the man to whom the government intruſts ſome authority in foreign countries, him above all who is blinded by ſelf-love to ſuch a degree as to perſuade himſelf that he changes his nature, and is no longer the ſame man, as ſoon as he gets into place, put on a cold and diſguſting hauteur, which he takes for the becoming, but affable, tone of dignity; fear the approach of the obſerver ſufficiently clear-ſighted to perceive his folly and at times ſomething worſe; in ſhort, put into play a multitude of little ſprings, among which incivility and want of reſpect are the moſt powerful in the eyes of the delicate traveller, in order to keep him at a diſtance; and, as I have heard ſome of them ſay, to get rid of troubleſome inquiries. Jealous, beſides, of the information that an enlightened obſerver gathers, in countries which the greater part of the perſons of whom I am ſpeaking did no more than inhabit; conceiving that obſervations of every kind of which moſt of them were incapable, ought, like the official concerns of their adminiſtration, to remain an affair of office, and be tranſmitted but by them alone, they employed

ployed their influence to create him obſtacles and to thwart him in his projects.

Theſe reflections, which my meeting with proud men, though with ſo few motives for being ſo, had ſuggeſted to me in the LEVANT and in the colonies, did not occupy my mind at RHODES. A friend to the ſciences, M*** honoured and loaded with civilities thoſe who cultivated them, and his zeal could be compared only to the amiable hoſpitality, which he took a pleaſure in exerciſing towards them. He employed his leiſure hours in collecting various articles of curioſity, which he took great care to ſend to FRANCE to the learned ſocieties; a ſomewhat conſiderable number of medals, both of the Iſle of RHODES and of CARAMANIA, had been acquired by him and addreſſed to the Academy of Belles Lettres of PARIS; and that company had charged M. DACIER with their correſpondence with M***. It was to be regretted that his education in ſome way was not always equal to his good will; he had, for inſtance, ſingular notions of natural hiſtory. Whatever I could ſay to him, he conſidered ſalamanders, common in his iſland, as incombuſtible animals, and able to live in fire. His cook had found one of

them, he aſſured me, in the middle of the hotteſt brazier, as in its natural element: he took a delight in ſhewing it to me, preſerved in ſpirits of wine; and his prepoſſeſſion was ſo ſtrong, that he did not notice that the reptile had its feet burnt. He inſiſted too that I ſhould take charge, for the cabinet of natural hiſtory, of a piece of ſtone, the form of which made him believe that it was a very extraordinary human petrification; his perſuaſion, in this reſpect, was ſo complete, that, in a memorandum annexed to the preſent, he expreſſed his wiſh that ſome ſkilful hand might take off the firſt ſtony cover, under which he did not doubt that there would be diſcovered the integuments, the glands, the fibres, and all the moſt delicate parts of living nature.

Theſe trifling miſtakes, which we ſhould not have taken the trouble to remark in other perſons leſs animated with a love for the ſciences, became, in ſome meaſure, reſpectable in M***, becauſe they were a proof of his wiſh to render himſelf uſeful in every line; but that in which he diſtinguiſhed himſelf moſt, was the exerciſe of his functions. Not one of the conſuls in the LEVANT had acquired a more deſerved conſideration on the part of the commanders of French ſhips of war;

war; not one had more generally gained the reſpect and confidence of the captains of our merchant-veſſels. He had frequently to ſtruggle in favour of the latter againſt the *Nazir*, or intendant of the navy, who commanded at RHODES, in the abſence of the pacha. This Turkiſh officer, an ill-diſpoſed man and an enemy of the Europeans, ſought every opportunity of vexing them. The French veſſels which put into RHODES, were often the object of the extortions of the greedy Muſſulman, as well as of M***'s courageous energy in defending them. This is a juſtice, which all the perſons who took any intereſt in the trade of the LEVANT, felt a pleaſure in rendering to him; and my worthy and unfortunate friend, the reſpectable and feeling D'ENTRECASTEAUX in particular, who, during his different cruiſes in the ARCHIPELAGO, had been witneſs of the exaggerated claims of the *Nazir* and of M***'s bold reſiſtance, frequently ſpoke of the latter in the moſt honourable terms, and lamented his ill ſucceſs in not obtaining reparation for the outrages which the French experienced at RHODES.

D'ENTRECASTEAUX had, on ſome occaſions, joined his complaints to thoſe of the conſul;

conſul; but it was to no purpoſe, and they produced only a dry and haughty letter, bordering on impertinence, from the French ambaſſador at CONSTANTINOPLE. M*** received it at the time when I was at RHODES, and he was ſo mortified at it, that he, from that moment, reſolved to reſign a poſt which he loſt all hopes of occupying honourably, and in which he muſt have been long regretted.

Such was the conduct of the French government in TURKEY; it there ſhewed itſelf complaiſant to exceſs, and tolerant even to meanneſs. It made nothing of abandoning its delegates, when, penetrated with their duties and the importance of their functions, they diſplayed any firmneſs. The Turks were become ſo habituated to this puſillanimous condeſcenſion, that it was not uncommon to ſee them break out againſt the French in the moſt ſerious exceſſes, which remained unpuniſhed. The aſſaſſination of our conſul at ALEXANDRIA was not revenged; nor was more ſatisfaction obtained reſpecting the two French interpreters, who, in the exerciſe of their functions, were delivered up, in SYRIA, to the horrible puniſhment of the baſtinado on the ſoles of the feet; and one of whom

expired under the blows, and the other was deprived, for the reſt of his days, of the power of walking*. A thouſand other outrages have been likewiſe unpuniſhed; and the protection which the French enjoyed in TURKEY was rather the effect of the good will of the Turks than of the vigour of the French government.

Our ambaſſadors at CONSTANTINOPLE paid little attention to the complaints which reached them from all parts of the LEVANT: they took good care not to diſturb their own tranquillity, and to expoſe their own dignity, by importuning the Ottoman miniſters with partial remonſtrances; theſe remained in oblivion, as did they who addreſſed them under oppreſſion and injuſtice. Like the envoys to the other powers, confining themſelves to the ſole politics of courts, the French ambaſſadors at CONSTANTINOPLE wiſhed alſo to appear occupied only by politics, in a country where there are none; and, in order to affect to give themſelves up entirely to an imaginary labour, they had for a long time been ſoliciting the

* I have given the particulars of theſe crimes in my *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt*, vol. i. page 119 and following.

eſtabliſhment

eſtabliſhment of a general conſul, who, reſiding in the capital of the Turkiſh empire, might rid them of commercial affairs, which they diſdained.

And this haughty indifference, ſo prejudicial to the intereſts of the nation, was not always peculiar to the former delegates. Some conſuls, of the number of thoſe who, as VOLTAIRE ſaid, thought themſelves Roman conſuls, ſet up too for agents in diplomatic affairs, although, by their inſtitutions, they were agents in commerce. They conſidered as beneath them honourable and uſeful functions, in order to create for themſelves frivolous and imaginary ones: they aſſumed a tone of dignity and importance, which, in the eyes of many people, are the equivalents of merit, and they converted themſelves into ambaſſadors. I ſaw, at ALEXANDRIA, a conſul, who, in the laſt war againſt the Engliſh, did not fail to notify the military events which came to his knowledge, through old gazettes, to the *Serdar*, the Mamalûk who commanded there, and who was abſolutely ignorant that war had broken out in EUROPE, and even that there exiſted any difference between the French and the Engliſh, whom he alike confounded and deſpiſed under the

name of *Franks*, and not unfrequently under that of *dogs*. As ſoon as he was informed of the firſt hoſtilities, this ſame conſul iſſued an ordinance, by which he forbad five or ſix French factors ſettled at ALEXANDRIA, to hold any communication with two or three Engliſh factors who were likewiſe there, or even to ſpeak to them. Thus, in a moment, he deſtroyed the old and neceſſary intimacy which reigned on a foreign and deſolate land, between a ſmall number of men ſharing the ſame anxieties, the ſame dangers, and having no recreation and diverſion but in parties, which, though formed by ſubjects of inimical governments, preſented only a ſociety of friends.

Accordingly, with the exception of a ſmall number of conſuls who ſtill diſtinguiſhed themſelves by extenſive knowledge, and by a worthy exerciſe of their functions, it was lamentable to ſee the intereſts of commerce, that is, one of the moſt certain ſources of national proſperity, conſigned to ignorant and unexperienced hands. Under the reign of LOUIS XIV. a period when our commercial operations in the LEVANT were more flouriſhing, our privileges more extenſive, and the French more reſpected in TURKEY, the

conſuls

conſuls who reſided there were taken from the claſs of merchants, better qualified than any others to give to commerce a ſtrong impulſe, and to direct its concerns with greater ſucceſs. Indeed, ſuch choices, the cuſtom of which the Dutch have preſerved, were far preferable to thoſe of giddy youths ſent from PARIS, under LOUIS XVI. to ſcandalize the ſea-port towns in the LEVANT by their ignorance and inutility. The greater part of the old conſuls, whoſe long experience, in a country where nothing can ſupply its place, became, as well as old ſervices, inconteſtable motives for being continued, had been replaced by men no leſs ſtrangers to trade than to the cuſtoms of the Orientals; by men among whom we might in vain have looked for other titles to the place which they occupied, than the favour which had placed them in it; by men, in ſhort, who were eaten up by the fooliſh vanity of conſidering themſelves and of acting as ambaſſadors.

Thence it happened that, in order to compenſate for the ignorant indifference of people of acknowledged incapacity, local affairs remained in the hands of the droguemans, or interpreters attached to the conſulates. Theſe uſeful men, among whom I have known

ſome very eſtimable ones, were, from their infancy, born or bred at CONSTANTINOPLE, where national energy grew weak, and where they contracted the habit of dreading the Muſſulmans. Clothed like the Turks, and become, as it were, foreigners to their country by their manners and their connexions, they introduced, in their concerns with the men in power, the uneaſy timidity of perſons ſubjected to oriental deſpotiſm; the quivering accents of weakneſs were frequently ſubſtituted to the tone of dignity; and on thoſe occaſions in which it was neceſſary to ſpeak with firmneſs, they frequently employed nothing but humble repreſentations. What idea could the Turks form of a government which expreſſed itſelf no otherwiſe than by weak and trembling organs? Thus it is that FRANCE daily loſt her credit and conſequence in TURKEY, that breaches of reſpect and juſtice were accumulated, and that the way was paved to the entire loſs of her influence and commerce.

If, among the agents in the LEVANT, there were any who, penetrated with the importance of their functions and the extent of their duties, employed all their means to ſupport the honour of the flag of FRANCE, and the intereſt of her trade, not by the barren ex-

terior of ſhew and oſtentation, but by a conduct at once wiſe and firm, reſpect without ſervility, a ſcrupulous attention to avoid every thing that might diſpleaſe the authorities near which they were placed, and give them umbrage, yet at the ſame time not to ſuffer any infringement on the rights fixed by treaties; the latter, I ſay, contenting themſelves with being uſeful without pomp, and with rendering important ſervices without knowing the art of making the moſt of them, remained without advancement; and, in general, ſickened by diſguſt, like the reſpectable conſul at RHODES.

This Iſland of ASIA, which the obſervations of M. CHAZELLES place in latitude 36° 26′, is much longer than it is broad; its greateſt length, in a direction from north to ſouth, is about twelve leagues; it is but ſix in breadth, and its circuit is commonly eſtimated at forty-four leagues. Its form is nearly triangular, whence it obtained the name of *TRINACRIA*, which it bore in former times, with a great many others.

The city which bears the ſame name of RHODES, and which is the capital of the iſland as well as the chief ſeat of its government, is ſituated to the north-eaſt. It is for-

tified, and its ramparts partake of the ſtate of neglect and decay of every thing that is in the hands of the Turks. But proud recollections are attached to them, and will preſerve them eternally in the memory of mankind; they will, to the lateſt poſterity, be a teſtimony of what valour can achieve againſt the moſt formidable forces, valour which duty and a ſenſe of honour alone inſpired, and which was neither ſullied by the ambition of conqueſts, nor the allurement of the ſpoils of the vanquiſhed. It was on this theatre of glory that VILLIERS DE L'ILE ADAM, loaded with years and with the palms of heroiſm, and who, to be one of the moſt renowned generals in the world, wanted no more than the command of a large army, inſpiriting a handful of combatants already multiplied by their own courage, long checked the attacks and efforts of the victorious arms of the proud SOLIMAN. Hiſtory has tranſmitted to us the unheard-of prodigies which rendered illuſtrious the defence of RHODES. SOLIMAN's triumph, which coſt him a hundred thouſand of his beſt troops, was at leaſt not profaned by acts of atrociouſneſs and barbarity; and he gave not the example of the abominable cruelty, which, in contempt of

ſolemn

ſolemn conventions, the lieutenant of one of his ſucceſſors, a warrior who knew only how to be ferocious, exerciſed, at the capture of FAMAGUSTA, towards its valiant defender. The Ottoman prince was acquainted with all the value of courage; he underſtood how to appreciate it, and pay it homage even in his enemies: he loaded the grand maſter VILLIERS DE L'ILE ADAM with attention and deference, and endeavoured to make him forget the blow which the fate of arms had juſt given him

Abandoned by the reſt of EUROPE, the knights of the order of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM were forced to evacuate RHODES, and carry to MALTA the remnant of their own body, which had eſcaped from the ſword of the Muſſulmans; there, they acquired freſh claims to the admiration of future ages; there, their heroiſm was a long time maintained by a crowd of glorious actions. But the forgetfulneſs of reſpectable, yet degenerated inſtitutions, an empty ſhew of obedience to old cuſtoms, and a frivolous vanity, aſſumed the place of a noble and juſt pride; licentiouſneſs, that powerful mean of deſtruction to ancient inſtitutions, which time itſelf had reſpected, changed the face of an aſſociation whoſe brilliant

liant career reckoned a great number of years of glory; and, at the expiration of a few days of irreſolute defence, it annihilated itſelf, by giving up the laſt aſylum of its honourable exiſtence to an army much leſs numerous, but, indeed, much more formidable than that of SOLIMAN.

In ſeveral places of the city of RHODES are ſtill to be ſeen marks of the ancient poſſeſſion of the order of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM; a long ſtreet there preſerves the name of *RUE DES CHEVALIERS*; it is perfectly ſtraight, and formed of old houſes, on which remain the armorial bearings of the members of the order. Some of theſe buildings ſtill exhibit the arms of the Pope; and it is rather aſtoniſhing that the Turks, conſummate maſters in the infernal art of deſtruction, have reſpected theſe emblems of the ſovereignty of the catholic pontiff whom they hold in abhorrence, becauſe they conſider him as the natural and irreconcileable enemy of their religion. However, we ceaſe to be ſurpriſed at this ſort of inconſiſtency in the actions of the Muſſulmans, when we have ſeen them, in our days, fly to arms, and take a very active part in a war, one of the motives of which is the re-

eſtabliſhment

eſtabliſhment of the court of ROME and of the order of MALTA.

The ancient church of ST. JOHN is become the principal moſque; the hoſpital has been transformed into public granaries, and the palace of the grand maſter, falling into ruins, is almoſt entirely deſerted. The harbour itſelf has, in a manner, changed its face; it no longer is that baſin, whoſe deep waters afforded a commodious ſhelter to ſhips of every ſize; no longer are thoſe quays enlivened by all the activity of a flouriſhing trade. It is now little frequented, except by Greek boats, and by a few merchant-veſſels which put in there; it is half choked up, and ſhips of war are obliged to caſt anchor without, where they are but indifferently protected from the winds and waves by ſome points of land and ſome ſhoals. The entrance of the harbour is defended, on the one ſide, by a ſquare tower, conſtructed by a grand maſter of the order; inſcriptions and other marks recall to mind the period of its foundation; the Turks ſtill call it *ST. JOHN'S TOWER*, although the Greeks have changed this name into that of *ST. NICHOLAS*, more generally adopted in the LEVANT. On the other ſide, is a tower not ſo high, nor ſo ſtrong, which is named *ST. ANGELO'S* or *ST. MICHAEL'S*

Michael's Tower. The harbour is as if divided into two by a ſmall mole, which projects within it, and forms an encloſure, into which boats alone can enter, and which, on that account, is called *Boat-harbour.*

Independently of the large harbour, there was another on each ſide; the one was the harbour for the gallies, where they can no longer enter at this day; the other is choked up, and almoſt entirely dry. Every thing is deſtroyed, every thing is annihilated under a government which knows only how to enjoy, or rather to abuſe the preſent, and to which the moſt ſimple calculations of foreſight are unknown.

In the harbour of Rhodes, I learnt how ſailors contrive to get rid of rats that are troubleſome, and to make them paſs to their neighbours. Our veſſel was full of theſe gnawing animals; they there occaſioned conſiderable havock, and devoured or ſpoilt the proviſions. A Greek bark, loaded with apples, came and caſt anchor near us. Our ſailors, without making the ſmalleſt noiſe, ran out to her, during the night, a hawſer or cablet, and then drew it tight, ſo that it might ſerve as a bridge to the rats: the latter, attracted by the ſmell of the apples, of which they are very

very fond, paſſed, without the exception of a ſingle one, into the bark, and there gave the Greeks reaſon to curſe their neighbour.

Yards for ſhip-building, which might, with ſo much reaſon, be called workſhops of dilapidation, are eſtabliſhed at RHODES for the Ottoman navy: the timber which is employed there is taken from the fine and vaſt foreſts of CARAMANIA, and even from thoſe of the iſland; but the latter, cut down without reſerve, are almoſt exhauſted, and now afford but feeble reſources. Ships are built with ſo much ſlowneſs, and the choice of the timber which is introduced into their conſtruction is ſo bad, that it has happened more than once to ſee them half rotten before they are entirely finiſhed. The builders ſcarcely employ any other wood than fir, which, when it is cut down in a proper ſeaſon, and preſerved with the neceſſary precautions, is almoſt incorruptible. The pines, which, in this country, are felled in January and in Auguſt, are reckoned to unite the beſt qualities: but the Turks, paying no regard to this obſervation, and caring little to make for their ſovereign works of laſting nature, cut down the trees at all times, at the period when the ſap is riſing as well as when it is at a ſtand; they likewiſe indifferently

indifferently make uſe of green wood, full of ſap and reſin, which bends, warps, and ſoon decays; ſo that before a ſhip is launched, her ribs and timbers are frequently rotten, without any attempt being made to replace them, or without the building and equipment of a veſſel, whoſe frame is already decayed, being diſcontinued.

The greateſt diſorder reigns in the adminiſtration of theſe dock-yards; all thoſe who are employed in them vie with each other in plundering; the head men, in particular, are very well verſed in the art of acquiring, by their robberies, multiplied to exceſs, conſiderable riches, which, moſt times, become in their turn the object of the cupidity and plunder of men greater than themſelves. This vaſt gang of public robbers, devouring each other ſucceſſively, is one of the attributes of the Ottoman government, if we may thus call the ſeat of diſorder: this is one of the political vices which preys on it with the moſt effect, and which, for a long time paſt, has been paying the way to its ruin; it is inherent in every reign of confuſion: and we have ſeen very recently that it was not neceſſary to go to TURKEY to meet with it in all its energy.

Who

Who has not heard of the famous coloſſus, one of the ſeven wonders of the world, which, being placed, it is ſaid, at the entrance of the harbour of RHODES, was tall enough for ſhips to paſs between its legs? According to PLINY*, this was a monument which commanded admiration. It was the production of an artiſt, born at LINDUS, one of the towns of the Iſland of RHODES, and a pupil of LYSIPPUS, a ſtatuary of great celebrity. Other hiſtorians affirm that he only began it, and that, having killed himſelf, another ſculptor of the ſame country completed the work. Be this as it may, twelve years were conſumed in erecting this coloſſus. Its height was ſeventy cubits, which is about one hundred and five of our feet; ſome authors have carried it to eighty cubits, or one hundred and twenty feet, and even to one hundred and fifty feet. At the expiration of fifty-ſix years, it was thrown down by an earthquake; and proſtrate as it lay, it ſtill appeared a prodigy. Few men could claſp the thumb of this gigantic ſtatue; each of its fingers was larger than moſt ſtatues: its different parts, when broken, ſhewed

* Hiſt. Nat. lib. xxxiv. cap. vii.

in

in their inſide vaſt cavities, ſome of which were filled with ſtones of an immenſe ſize, intended to add to its weight, and give it greater ſtability*.

No one thought of raiſing again ſo heavy a maſs; it remained extended on the ground near nine hundred years, and it was not till the year 672 that it was carried off, after having been taken to pieces†. Almoſt all authors agree that it required nine hundred camels to remove its remains; and the load of each camel being eſtimated at eight hundred pounds, it reſults that the weight of the coloſſus was near ſeven hundred and twenty thouſand of our pounds‡. All the bronze of which it was formed was ſhipped and carried away by the Arabs, when they made themſelves maſters of the city.

However, the common opinion which repreſents the coloſſus of RHODES at the entrance of the harbour, and ſhips paſſing in full ſail

* PLINY, at the place quoted.

† CONST. *Porphyrog. de Adminiſtr. Imperii*, cap. xxi. and xxii.

‡ *Memoires de l'Académie des Inſcriptions et Belles Lettres*, vol. xxiv. page 360. Reflections on the chapter of the 34th book of PLINY, in which mention is made of works in bronze, by Count CAYLUS.

between

between its extended legs, is erroneous, as several of the learned, and M. DE CAYLUS in particular, have very clearly proved: they, with much greater probability, place this monument of the power of the Rhodians at some distance from the sea*.

This enormous statue was not the only one that attracted attention in the city of RHODES; PLINY reckons a hundred other colossuses not so large, which rose majestically in its different quarters †. Besides these, here were to be seen five others, the work of BRIAXIS, and representing divinities. This extraordinary quantity of colossal figures, assembled within the walls of a single city, had obtained the Rhodians the surname of *Colossians*. If we recall to mind that common statues were here so extremely numerous, that the ancients compared their number to that of the inhabitants; if we remark too that the most ancient school of painting, some positive traces of which are to be discovered among the Greeks, was esta-

* *Mémoire de* CAYLUS, before quoted.

† *Sunt alii minores hoc in eâdem urbe colossi centum numero, sed ubicunque singuli fuissent nobilitaturi locum.* PLINY, lib. xxxiv. cap. vii.

bliſhed in the Iſland of RHODES, in the time of ANACREON*; that one of the moſt famous painters of antiquity, PROTOGENES of CAUNUS, here painted his maſter-pieces, we ſhall form an idea of the degree of ſplendour and activity to which the fine arts were here carried; and if we caſt our eyes on the ſtate of depopulation, ruin, and wretchedneſs, in which the preſent town languiſhes, we ſhall have the meaſure of the miſchief that can be effected by barbarous and deſpotic ignorance.

But the coloſſus the moſt diſtinguiſhed, that which was named the *Coloſſus of the Sun*, had been erected in honour of that deity. The whole iſland was conſecrated to him; one of the moſt beautiful temples of antiquity had likewiſe been conſtructed in honour of him in the capital of the iſland, and his worſhip was there as general, as that of VENUS in the Iſland of CYPRUS. This was the effect of the gratitude of a people, whoſe territory, according to the general opinion, being inundated by an extraordinary deluge, had owed its deſiccation to the rays of the ſun†, who

* PAUW, *Recherches Philoſophiques ſur les Grecs*, vol. ii. page 94.

† DIODORUS of SICILY, lib. iv. cap. lvi.

alſo

alſo ſeems to have adopted the iſland as the temple of his mild influence: there is no day in the year in which he does not appear at leaſt for ſome moments; and this remark of the ancients* agrees perfectly with the obſervations of the moderns. M***, who had reſided at RHODES for ſeveral years, aſſured me that, whatever were the opakeneſs and quantity of the clouds, the ſun always found means to ſhew himſelf at intervals.

An iſland which the luminary of day favoured in ſo peculiar a manner, could not fail to be the ſubject of the praiſes of the poets; they called it, in their brilliant language, *the daughter of* VENUS, and the *wife of the* SUN. It bore ſeveral other names in antiquity; the moſt remarkable, becauſe it is connected with the nature of the climate and of the ſoil, is that of *Macaria*, fortunate, which it ſhared with the Iſland of CYPRUS. It, nevertheleſs, ſurpaſſes that iſland, if not by the fertility of the land, at leaſt by its milder and more agree-

* They ſaid the ſame thing of *Syracuſe*.—*See* PLINY, lib. ii. cap. lxii. The Iſland of RHODES, which the ſun ſeemed never to abandon, was diſtinguiſhed by the epithet of *clear*.

"*Laudabunt alii claram Rhodon.*" HOR.

able temperature. Here the heat is not exceſſive; here long droughts do not burn the plants, dry up the waters, or cauſe the inhabitants to ſuffer. A temperate climate, a pure air, fine ſprings which at all times ſupply wants, and are conducive to agreeableneſs; vallies of a rich and fertile ſoil, covered by plentiful harveſts, and clothed with rich paſtures, ſhaded by trees bearing precious fruits, ſuch as the olive, the orange, and the fig tree, which flowers embelliſh with their luſtre and perfume with their ſweet emanations; ſloping hills on which the vine is cultivated, or which preſent to numerous flocks a luxuriant and odoriferous herbage; mountains where grow the moſt beautiful trees, whoſe verdure is eternal, would ſtill render it one of the moſt delightful abodes in the world, did not the iron hand of the Turks efface a part of the colours of this ſmiling picture. A gloomy nakedneſs diffuſes melancholy over places formerly adorned by the riches of nature and induſtry; and the men who are called thither by an agreeable and truly happy country, are driven back by the terror inſpired by a horde of ſpoilers. Happineſs no longer inhabits a land formerly *fortunate*; and the golden ſhower, which the poets of antiquity

cauſed

cauſed to fall there, as an emblem of its riches and brilliant advantages, is converted into a ſtorm of deſolation.

The name of the Iſland of RHODES has exerciſed the reſearches and conjectures of etymologiſts. BOCHART, one of the moſt indefatigable, building on the name of *OPHIUSA*, that is, *SNAKE ISLAND*, by which the ancients diſtinguiſhed it on account of the number of thoſe dangerous reptiles with which it was infeſted, no doubt, when it was firſt inhabited, ſays that the Phœnicians alſo called it *SNAKE ISLAND*, in their language *GESIRAT-RHOD*, this latter word ſignifying a ſnake, whence the Greeks afterwards formed the name of *RHODES*, which the iſland has ſince preſerved. This learned conjecture is not the moſt natural; and it is more ſimple, methinks, to derive the name of *RHODES* from that of *RHODOS*, which, in Greek, ſignifies *a roſe*, a flower very common in this country, and whoſe figure is to be found on the medals of the iſland, of which it is the emblem.

After having loſt and ſeveral times recovered their liberty, the Rhodians paſſed under the domination of the Romans. At the time of the decline of the Greek empire, they became the ſubjects of the Genoeſe, of the Arabs,

of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and, laſtly, the ſlaves of the Ottomans. This was the term of their glory and of their commerce; and had not hiſtory handed down to us proofs of their ancient love for the ſciences and fine arts, of the magnificence of their city, of their induſtry in ſeconding Nature, who had poured her gifts with ſuch profuſion on their territory, of their enterpriſing activity, and of their ſkill in navigation, in ſhort, of the great trade of which their iſland was the centre, no one could ſuſpect, were he now at Rhodes, that he was in their iſland and among their deſcendants.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER VIII.

Ancient cities of the Iſland of Rhodes.—*Ravages of men.*—*Earthquakes.*—*Formation of the Iſland of* Rhodes.—*Plague.*—*Inhabitants of the iſland.*—*Its happy poſition, its harbours, its productions.*—Bartavelles, *or Greek partridges.*—*Partridges.*—*Turtles.*—*Picture of a beautiful ſolitude.*—*Quails.*—*Woodcocks.*—*Fiſhes.*—*Sponges.*—*Coral.*

THE city of RHODES is at this day the only one in the iſland; at very ancient periods there were three others, which no longer exiſted in the time of PLINY*. The moſt conſiderable of theſe three cities, the country of CHARES, who made or at leaſt began the famous coloſſus conſecrated to the Sun, was called *LINDUS*, and contained a magnificent temple, dedicated to MINERVA. Some veſtiges of it ſtill remain,

* Hiſt. Nat. lib. xiv.

with the name of *Lindo*, in a hamlet ſituated nearly in the middle of the eaſt ſide of the iſland, and entirely peopled by Greeks: its harbour, by no means ſpacious, is much frequented by the ſmall craft of the country, which there take in the commodities of the iſland, and bring thither merchandiſe from other parts. Accordingly almoſt all the inhabitants of Lindo are given to commerce, or to the carrying-trade of the neighbouring coaſts and iſlands; they navigate with ſmall faſt-ſailing veſſels which they themſelves conſtruct, and to which they give greater ſolidity than to the ſhips that come off the ſtocks of Rhodes for the account of the government. A few Lindians alſo employ themſelves in rural labours; but, of all the quarters of the iſland, that which they inhabit being the leaſt fit for tillage, on account of its ſtony and uneven nature, culture principally conſiſts of plantations of vines, fig-trees, and others.

The ſecond city, which bore the name of *Camyros*, was ſituated on the weſt coaſt, almoſt oppoſite to *Lindus*; there no longer exiſt any traces of it but the name of *Camyro*, a Greek village, built on the ſame ſpot.

No indication is to be found of the moſt ancient of theſe three cities, *Jalyssos*; it is known

known only that it was ſituated on the north coaſt of the iſland.

When we review in thought this innumerable multitude of cities and great edifices, which have covered in different places the ſurface of the earth, and which have been ſucceſſively effaced, we cannot but yield to the painful ſenſations excited by the rage of mankind. Monuments which the genius of the arts and the patience of induſtry erect with ſo much ſolidity and ſlowneſs, crumble in an inſtant under the blows of impetuous barbariſm, or by the more ſudden ſhocks of the terrible art of war, which delights only in blood and ruins. Man throws down what man builds up; in his mind time is too ſlow; he anticipates the ravages of ages, for which he ſeems to envy them; and, in his rage for deſtruction, he leaves, very far behind him, the moſt ferocious animals, whoſe malice he ſurpaſſes, by being himſelf the deſtroyer of his own ſpecies. The partial confuſion which violent commotions of the earth ſometimes occaſion, are not of a very perceptible effect on the map of devaſtations, if we compare them to the vaſt extent of ruins with which the hand of man has ſtrewn the ſurface of the globe; and if hiſtory makes mention of the

the convulſions of nature, which have anciently thrown down edifices in the Iſland of RHODES, war and the fury of ſuperſtitious ignorance have, without compariſon, there deſtroyed and overthrown more than time and ſubterraneous ſhocks.

Earthquakes were, nevertheleſs, rather frequent in this iſland, at the time of its formation, if, indeed, it be true that it iſſued from the boſom of the waters, as was imagined by the ancients, who conſidered it as a preſent from the ſea, whence they gave it the name of *PELAGIA*, daughter of the ſea, in order to preſerve the memory of its origin. But its great proximity to the continent, the advanced cape which ſtretches out towards the coaſt, and which appears to have formed the junction between the iſland and the main land, lead me to preſume, with ſome degree of probability, that they have been united, and that the iſland was formerly no more than a great promontory of ASIA MINOR. Be this as it may, the Iſland of RHODES is no longer in our days agitated by earthquakes; and it would be an abode equally ſafe and agreeable, if two other ſcourges ſtill more dreadful, the plague and Ottoman deſpotiſm, did not convert it into a place of fear and deſolation.

The

The Turks, who daily live and die victims of the plague, carry the germs of it wherever they land. No precaution is taken to prevent its communication, or to ſtop its progreſs. A perſon infected with the plague penetrates, with as much liberty as the moſt healthy man, into every part of the empire, and no one thinks of avoiding his company. From this circumſtance, it is not aſtoniſhing that the Iſland of RHODES, like all the other countries of TURKEY, is expoſed to the moſt terrible of contagions, which cannot be attributed to its climate, one of the moſt wholeſome and moſt agreeable in the world.

I ſhall, on this occaſion, mention a preſervative againſt the plague, which ſome Italian monks of the order of ST. FRANCIS, known in the LEVANT by the appellation of *Fathers of the Holy Land*, communicated to me at RHODES, where they had a *hoſpice**, and ſerved as chaplains to the French vice-conſul, for this magiſtrate was the only one there of his nation; his phyſician even was a Greek of the country. Theſe monks affirmed, from their own experience, and that of their brethren eſtabliſhed in many other countries of

* A place of hoſpitable entertainment for travellers.

the

the EAST, that an infallible mean of guarding againſt the plague, conſiſts in ſwallowing, every morning, faſting, a glaſs of one's own urine, in which the juice of a lemon has been expreſſed. This remedy, or to make uſe of the term conſecrated in medical language, this ſimple and eaſy prophylactic, the efficacy of which the experience of ſome men, forced by their profeſſion to live in the midſt of contagion, appears to warrant, deſerves more confidence than the complicated recipes and the long indications of diet, preſcribed by phyſicians, to whom books have ſerved as obſervations, and a theory often doubtful, as experience.

With the exception of the city of RHODES itſelf, which is almoſt entirely inhabited by Turks, who would render it an abode inſupportable to any others but themſelves, the population of the iſland is compoſed of Greeks, deſcendants of thoſe famous Rhodians, whoſe valour, ardent love of liberty, taſte for the ſciences and fine arts, ſkill in navigation, and activity in commerce, have been celebrated in the annals of antiquity. The long tyranny under which they have been enſlaved, has checked the tranſports of generous ſouls, and extinguiſhed the torch of genius, and the fiery

ardour

ardour of glory and riches: the Greeks of RHODES have preſerved, as it were, no more than the ſhadow of the great energy of their anceſtors, a few traces of which are ſcarcely to be found in their fondneſs for navigation and traffic, which moſt of them ſtill follow with ſome ſucceſs. They are ſtill, like their forefathers, bold and ſkilful navigators, able ſhip-builders, induſtrious traders; and if the beautiful countries of Aſiatic GREECE were deſtined to change their maſters, it would be at RHODES, more than in any other quarter, that we ſhould meet with the powerful ſuccours of courage, of the ſpirit of liberty, and of intelligence.

Placed on the route which veſſels from the north of GREECE muſt hold in order to repair to SYRIA and EGYPT, the Iſland of RHODES would, in other hands, become the general emporium of a very conſiderable commerce; its ports would afford places of ſhelter and refreſhment: and its proximity to the coaſts would render it miſtreſs of part of the trade of ASIA, as it would participate in that of EGYPT and of the other neighbouring countries. A ſituation ſo happy could not have remained uſeleſs but under the government of

the Turks; under any other, it would become a fertile ſource of proſperity.

While its poſition, its vicinity to a long extent of coaſts and numerous iſlands, and the good quality of the timber which its foreſts furniſh for ſhip-building, neceſſarily make the people of RHODES a people of navigators, ſeveral harbours invite thither commerce, and multiply and facilitate its means. Capes, which render the figure of the iſland very irregular, form road-ſteads, havens, and bays, in which veſſels can depoſit and receive their ladings, ſupply themſelves with excellent water and proviſions of every ſort, and take ſhelter, ſecure from the impetuoſity of the winds and waves.

One of the principal of theſe harbours, next to the port of RHODES, which, half choked up, is waiting for maſters and repairing labours, is that of LINDO; of which I have already ſpoken. Near the cape of this name, and at the entrance of the gulf, is a rock which is conſiderably elevated above the ſurface of the ſea. On the ſame eaſt coaſt of the iſland, and to the north of LINDO, is another gulf more open, with a bay leſs ſafe, between Cape PARADI and Cape TENDA; and to the ſouth, is found *SAN NICOLO* Bay, whoſe

whoſe entrance is divided by a ſhoal ſomewhat extenſive. Farther to the ſouth, is Cape *San Giovanni*, a low point, off which an iſlet bears a tower that ſerved as a light-houſe to navigators. The moſt conſiderable and the moſt ſouthern promontory of the iſland, is that to which has been given the name of Cape *Tranquillo*; it forms, with Cape *San Giovanni*, a narrow and deep gulf, where ſhips lie in ſafety; and, with Cape *Candura*, a large bay more open. A ſhoal, ſituated to the ſouthward of the entrance of the gulf of Cape *Tranquillo*, is not without danger in making the land on this coaſt. The ſea appears to have opened for itſelf a paſſage in the promontory of Cape *Tranquillo*, and to have ſeparated from it, to the weſt, two ſmall fragments, ſteril iſlets, which bear the names of *Gordei* and of *Strongelo*; and to the ſouth, a more conſiderable portion, which forms an iſland, called *Santa Catherina*.

To the weſt, there are alſo above Cape Candura ſome havens more orleſs large, more or leſs ſecure; and this coaſt is, in general, ſandy, bathed by deep waters, and, according to the ſeaman's phraſe, very ſafe, that is, free from rocks and ſhoals, and may be approached without the riſk of running aground.

A ſingle

A ſingle river bearing the name of CANDURI, which it gives to the cape in whoſe vicinity it diſcharges itſelf into the ſea, waters the interior parts of the iſland; but numerous ſprings of running water alſo diffuſe fecundity in their meandering courſe. Although hilly, the ſoil proves ſuitable to ſeveral ſorts of productions. Fine trees, which greedy and improvident cupidity has reduced to a ſmall number, majeſtically crowned the higheſt mountains; and the reſin of the greater part of them, ſupplied abundantly the wants of the navy. On the ſloping hills, fig-trees, which yield a very large quantity of good fruit, carob-trees, and others both uſeful and agreeable, grow with facility; the vine alſo there holds its place, and the wine which is drawn from it, highly extolled by the ancients, on account of its delicacy and its perfume, has preſerved ſomething of thoſe good qualities, and may ſtill paſs for a very good wine, eſpecially when it is made with care. I drank ſome at M***'s, which was not inferior to the beſt wine of GREECE. The vallies afford rich paſtures, and the plains produce harveſts of every ſort; but agriculture would be more flouriſhing there, and occupy a greater extent of ground, if, like every other branch of induſtry, it had not to bear the obſtacles

obſtacles and vexations of an unjuſt and oppreſſive adminiſtration.

The inhabitants of RHODES have a great taſte for gardens. The city and the other habitations are ſurrounded by orchards, in which are found variety, agreeableneſs, coolneſs, and utility; pot-herbs, as well as flowers, are there cultivated with attention.

Stags and other ſpecies of game enliven the foreſts and plains: in the latter, bartavelles or Greek partridges are to be met with in great numbers*. M***, vice-conſul at RHODES, kept in a cage a bird of this ſpecies; but he was obliged, from time to time, to cut the tip of its bill, which grew ſo long and crooked, as to prevent the bird from taking its food. No bird, perhaps, bears confinement with greater difficulty than partridges in general; they need, more than any other, open air and a ſomewhat ſpacious ground, in order that they may not be reſtricted in the rapidity and frequency of their excurſions: every confined ſpace is unſuitable to them: if they are kept in narrow and covered places, they are attacked by all ſorts

* BUFFON, Hiſt. Nat. des Ois. et planche Enluminée, No. 231.—*Tetrao rufus*.—LINN.

of indiſpoſitions; and, after leading for ſome time a languiſhing exiſtence, they ſoon find death in the very attentions which are laviſhed on them, and which cannot ſupply the place of the advantages of a life frequently agitated, but accompanied by all the charms of liberty. The Greek partridge belonging to the vice-conſul of RHODES would not have been ſubject to the exceſſive prolongation of its bill, which, without foreign and unnatural aſſiſtance, would have occaſioned it to periſh from inanition, had its narrow priſon afforded it the means proper for wearing down its point by repeated friction.

Some pretty turtles, of a reddiſh gray plumage, and with a narrow, black ſemi-collar, ſimilar to thoſe which I had ſeen in EGYPT*, frequent the orchards by which the city of RHODES is ſurrounded, and add to them freſh charms. The motionleſs flower, however brilliant it may be, attaches and flatters the eye; but it wants life, without which beauty cauſes only ſteril impreſſions, agreeable indeed, but without vivacity, without

* *Tourterelles à collier du Sénégal.*—BUFFON, Hiſt. Nat. des Oiſeaux étrangers qui ont rapport aux tourterelles, article ſecond.—*Columba vinacea*, LINN.—*Ang.* Collared Senegal turtle.

movement,

movement, like the object that communicates them: every thing is enlivened, on the contrary, when the verdure of the groves ſerves as an aſylum and abode for charming birds, when the flowers are careſſed and betrayed alternately by thoſe winged inſects, brilliant like them, which know how to touch them, every moment, without tarniſhing them, and which themſelves appear flying flowers. What ſweet emotions do we not experience, when, in the ſilence of a ſhaded retreat, clothed with verdure and enamelled with flowers, we find ourſelves in the midſt of ſeveral pairs of the ſweeteſt and moſt tender birds, which conſtituted a part of the train of VENUS! Cooings, plaintive and languiſhing expreſſions of a burning flame, are heard on all ſides; the ear is not offended, and they invite to a ſoft reverie, the prelude of ſenſibility. On this tree, two of theſe birds, which nature and love have united, indulge in the moſt expreſſive marks of tenderneſs; we ſee them placed near each other, with their necks bent in a contrary direction, ſeizing each other's bill, with their bills partly open, puſhing it back and drawing it forward alternately, and in theſe repreſentations of mutual attack and reſiſtance, quit each other, rejoin each other,

and pant with love. On that tree, more lofty and more tufted, and in a neſt of downy and moſſy leaves, repoſe the fruits of an ardent love; the mother covers them, and warms them with her body and her wings: they ſleep; but ſhe who hatched them, has her head raiſed, and her look beſpeaks her anxiety; ſhe watches, and her reſtleſs eyes are directed towards every place around her. One ſentiment alone occupies her, and abſorbs all her faculties: this is the repoſe and preſervation of the dear objects, which ſhe could not defend, alas! but by her grief. The ſcene changes at the expiration of a few moments; the mother has quitted the neſt, the little ones ſpread their wings, ſtand up on their legs as yet unſteady, open their bill with all their might, and by weak, but repeated cries, they announce the joy which they feel: it is the father who arrives, loaded with the provender of the family: he diſtributes it equally; he then reſumes the place of his mate, who does not ſtray far from a ſpot where are fixed all her affections, and then only to procure her food, and bring, in her turn, that of her neſtlings.

Theſe living images of tenderneſs and paternal ſolicitude are leſſons more impreſſive for

for delicate minds, than thoſe which are imbibed from the beſt books and the moſt eloquent diſcourſes: theſe are affecting examples which Nature diſplays to our eyes, and which ſhe invites us to follow. Happy, indeed, is he who, ſimple in his habits, as in his affections, is acquainted with the ſweet effuſions of love and the occupations more ſerious, but not leſs ſweet, which accompany a fertile union, the pains, as well as the pleaſures of which, are equally felt, equally ſhared!

Quails, which, in their paſſage from EUROPE to AFRICA, diſperſe and ſtop on ſeveral iſlands, do not reſt themſelves on that of RHODES; and what proves that the line which thoſe birds traverſe, in order to change the climate, is invariable like the ſeaſon of their migration, is, that quails have never been ſeen to arrive at RHODES, although the iſland is not very diſtant from their route. But woodcocks paſs thither regularly every year, and in conſiderable numbers. They arrive in November, and their ſtay laſts about a month. I have alſo ſeen theſe latter birds, which, nevertheleſs, ſeem to prefer cold countries, ſeek at the ſame period, but in ſmall bodies, a mild winter in the humid plains of LOWER EGYPT.

Fiſh is very plentiful on the coaſt of Rhodes, which was called the iſland *abounding with fiſh*. The ſea, which ſurrounds it, likewiſe furniſhes coral and fine ſponges. The land there is rich in foſſils of every ſpecies, and there the geologiſt might form a curious and intereſting collection.

Beauty and mildneſs of climate, fecundity of ſoil, variety and abundance in the neceſſary or agreeable articles of life, a ſituation valuable for uſeful enterpriſes and a proſperous trade—nothing is wanting to the Iſland of Rhodes, except to be delivered from the Turks, who poſſeſs, in ſo eminent a degree, the fatal talent of converting the moſt happy abode into a ſpot to be ſhunned and dreaded.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER IX.

Departure from Rhodes. — *Sea-ſerpent.* — Fangri. — *Maritime prizes.* — Carpathian Sea. — *Iſland of* Eleuſa. — *Phœnix.* — Porto Cavaliere. — *Canal of* Rhodes. — *Small clouds which announce ſtorms.* — *Fiſhes.* — *Iſland of* Symi. — *Divers.* — *Cape* Crio. — Cnidus. — *Fiſhery.* — *Onions.* — *Garlic.* — *Navigation.* — *Cranes.* — *Ducks.* — *Calamary or cuttle-fiſh.* — *Arrival at* Stancho.

WE might conſider ourſelves as very fortunate in having put into the harbour of RHODES, on the approach of the ſtorm which aroſe on the very day that we entered it. We ſhould have had ſome difficulty to reſiſt it in narrow channels, where the ſea is always rough, with a ſmall veſſel, ill found and as ill conducted. The bad weather laſted, almoſt without interruption, during the four days, which the ſhip remained in the harbour; and if it prevented us from keeping the ſea, it permitted me at leaſt to make ſome excurſions

into the iſland, and to ſketch the picture of it which I have juſt preſented.

At length, on the morning of the 28th of October, the horizon having cleared up, and the wind ſubſided, the captain of the polacre diſpatched a meſſenger after me, to ſome diſtance from the city, in order to requeſt me to embark in haſte; and we ſailed out of the harbour, by means of a pleaſant breeze from the ſouth-weſt, which ſoon forſook us, in order to make room again for a wind equally contrary and impetuous.

A ſmall fiſhing-boat, which came alongſide of our ſhip, afforded me an opportunity of increaſing my ſtock of proviſions; I was the only perſon that purchaſed a few fiſhes; the captain, who but ſeldom conſented to partake of my meals, for fear of being obliged to invite me to his, introduced, into his manner of living, the parſimony, or, to ſpeak more correctly, the ſtinginеſs with which the ſeamen of PROVENCE are pretty generally reproached: cheeſe, anchovies, and olives, conſtituted his uſual fare, as well as that of his crew.

Among the fiſhes which I procured, was a muræna, of the ſpecies which, in the MEDITERRANEAN, is commonly called ſea-ſerpents,

pents, because it has not only the form and the quick and waving movements of ſerpents, but alſo the beauty and the variety of colours which adorn the greater part of thoſe reptiles. This name of ſea-ſerpent has been given to ſeveral ſorts of fiſhes; and there ſtill reigns ſome obſcurity in their diviſions, becauſe the particularities which diſtinguiſh them have been confounded, and, in the deſcriptions which moſt authors have given of them, they have attributed to ſome ſpecies the characters which belong to others. This has induced me to cauſe an engraving to be made of the muræna or ſea-ſerpent, which I met with in the canal of RHODES. (*See Plate IV. fig.* 1). I ſhall add to it a few notes, which will increaſe the knowledge already acquired reſpecting this ſpecies of fiſh, to which the name of *flûte** has likewiſe been given.

Its head is elongated, compreſſed on the ſides, by no means large, in compariſon to the length of the body, and diminiſhing perceptibly in thickneſs to the roſtrum, which is almoſt pointed. The opening of the

* See DAUBENTON, *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, hiſtoire naturelle des poiſons, article de la *flûte*. *Muræna Helena*. —LINN.

mouth

mouth is large; the jaws are flattened throughout their length: a judicious obſerver has compared them, on account of their form, to the bill of a gooſe, and this compariſon is very juſt*.

The inſide of the jaws is armed with a formidable ſet of very ſharp teeth, of unequal ſize and different form, ſome being ſmall and ſtraight, others long, ſharper, moveable, and bent towards the bottom of the mouth. All the inſide of the upper jaw is furniſhed with theſe teeth, which, on its edges, are ſmaller than in the middle; the under has none but on the edges. It has been aſſerted that the bite of this muræna is venemous, and thence it has been inferred that its fleſh is unwholeſome; but, if the wounds inflicted by jaws, beſet with a multitude of ſharp-edged points, be not venemous, they muſt more certainly occaſion cruel pains by the lacerations which theſe teeth, of various lengths, multiply in the fleſh at different depths.

And this apparatus ſo cutting, which the great voracity of the muræna renders ſtill more formidable, has furniſhed man, ever ingenious in tormenting his fellow-creatures, with a new kind of puniſhment, forgotten long ſince,

* Be'lon, *de Aquatil.* lib. i. cap. pii.

in

in order to make room for others not leſs cruel, not leſs barbarous, and the hiſtory of which, the bloody annals of the ferocity of mankind, would be equally curious and revolting. In the time of the Roman emperors, ſlaves condemned to death were thrown into fiſh-ponds filled with murænæ, where the unhappy beings expired, devoured alive by a great number of thoſe voracious animals, which faſtened on every part of their body.

At the extremity of the upper jaw are ſome appendages or apophyſes, ſhort, broad, and fiſtulous, which WILLUGHBY conſiders as the organs of hearing*. The eyes are ſmall, and placed on the upper jaw, much nearer to the extremity of that jaw than to the angles of the mouth†; they are covered by a tranſparent and bluiſh pellicle, and the pupil is ſurrounded by an orange-coloured circle. The apertures of the noſtrils are placed very near the eyes; another ſmall round opening, near the gills, ſerves the fiſh for throwing out the water.

* *Hiſtoria Piſcium*, lib. iv, ſect. ii. cap. i.

† WILLUGHBY, and after him DAUBENTON, have ſaid that the eyes of this muræna are placed in the middle of the diſtance between the extremity of the roſtrum and the angles of the jaws; this is not the caſe in the ſpecies which I am deſcribing.

The

The form of the body of this muræna is nearly that of the eel; it is only ſhorter, thicker, and more compreſſed on the ſides. It neither has pectoral nor ventral fins. At ſome diſtance from the head, begins, on the back, a fin ſomewhat elevated, which runs along the back, ſurrounds the tail, and terminates beneath near the anus; this long fin is covered throughout its whole extent by the ſkin of the body.

The ſmooth, viſcous, and ſlippery ſkin of the muræna is very diverſified in its colours. The roſtrum is blackiſh at its extremity; the top of the head is of a reddiſh brown, ſpotted with yellow. On a ground of a reddiſh brown, which becomes deeper in approaching the tail, black ſpecks and large yellow ſpots, mixed with a reddiſh tinge, are ſpread on the upper part of the fiſh; the belly and ſides, as far as the aperture of the gills, as well as the lower part of the under jaw, are of a fawn colour, and variegated with brown lines and ſpots*.

The

* The following are the principal dimenſions of this fiſh:

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Total length - - - - - -	3	0	0
——— of the apophyſes of the extremity of the upper jaw - -	0	0	2

Diſtance

The number of yellow ſpots, ſcattered over the body of this fiſh, indicated that it was a female. BE'LON has been the firſt to obſerve that the male had but very few ſpots, while the female was almoſt entirely covered with them†; and I had had an opportunity of verifying this obſervation, not only from the individual which I am deſcribing, and which was a female, but alſo from the examination of ſeveral other fiſhes of this ſpecies, which I have ſeen in the ſeas of the LEVANT. This female had, in its inſide, eggs elliptical and yellow; I alſo found, in its ſtomach, a rather large fiſh, half digeſted.

The ſtomach is very capacious; it is gray, and ſpotted at its oriſice with blackiſh gray; the liver is long and of a red tinged with

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Diſtance from the tip of the roſtrum to the angle of the jaws	0	2	6
——— to the eyes	0	10	0
——— to the anus	1	4	3
——— to the dorſal fin	0	4	6
——— from the eyes to the noſtrils	0	0	3
Diameter of the eyes	0	0	4
——— of the aperture of the gills	0	0	6
Height of the body	0	2	9
Breadth of the upper jaw, meaſured before the eyes	0	1	6

† *De Aquatilibus*, lib. i. cap. xii.

yellow;

yellow; the gall-bladder is oval, and attached to the bile-duct; the air-bladder is ſmall, oval, and formed of a very thick membrane; its colour is yellow without, and white within.

The Greeks of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO call this ſpecies of muræna, *ſminaria*; they affirm that it couples with the land-ſerpent. In our countries, the ſame thing is ſaid of the eel; but it is certain that the ſpecies of the muræna and of the eel being compoſed of males and females, they have no need to ſeek, on an element which is foreign to them, auxiliaries of that nature, and the individuals of both ſexes couple, in the manner of ſnakes, by cloſely intertwining with each other.

The fleſh of the *ſminaria* of the modern Greeks is very white and delicate; but the quantity of ſhort and crooked bones, with which it is filled, renders it troubleſome to be eaten. I have been told that the fiſhermen have the knack of cauſing all theſe inconvenient bones to deſcend to the tail, by ſtrongly ſqueezing the body of the fiſh between two ſmall ſticks, and of taking them off with the ſkin.

However, theſe fiſhes are very common along the coaſt of NATOLIA and in the ARCHIPELAGO;

CHIPELAGO; they take up their abode in the holes of the rocks. In order to make them come out, the fiſhermen of the LEVANT make uſe of *athernos*, a ſpecies of very ſmall fiſhes of which I ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak in the ſequel; they chew theſe raw, and when they have made of them in their mouth a ſort of paſte, they throw them here and there into the ſea, at the places where the edges of the rocks afford retreats to the muræne, which, attracted by the ſmell of this deceitful food, ſoon come to the hook. This bait is likewiſe made uſe of, in the ſame countries, for taking conger-eels, which have ſeveral affinities of forms and habits to muræne.

If the muræna or ſea-ſerpent, whoſe natural hiſtory I have juſt given, is remarkable for the variety of its colours, the fiſh of which I am going to ſpeak, and which I likewiſe found among the numerous produce caught by the boat that came alongſide of us on our leaving the harbour of RHODES, is dazzling from the brighteſt and richeſt colours. It is the *fangri* of the modern Greeks (*See Plate IV. fig.* 2), a fiſh of the genus *ſparus*, and which, holding the middle place between the ſea-bream*, and the ſilvery-eyed, red ſpa-

* *Sparus pagrus.* LINN.

rus,

rus*, is ſufficiently different from both to conſtitute a ſeparate ſpecies, or at leaſt a diſtinct race, which, according to every appearance, owes its origin to the difference of climate. Gold and purple glitter on its large ſcales; but, like the fleeting luſtre of beauty, which the ſlighteſt derangement tarniſhes or cauſes to vaniſh, this luxury of colours is effaced as ſoon as the fiſh is taken out of the element which preſerves its life and its ſplendour; there then remains of it nothing but tints without brilliancy, veſtiges which ceaſe to flatter the eye; and if, in hopes of preſerving theſe remains, already ſo faded, recourſe be had to a method the moſt convenient, but at the ſame time the leaſt calculated for giving an idea of the tints which diſtinguiſh fiſhes, by plunging the animal into a ſpirituous liquor, it quite changes colour, and becomes entirely livid.

The head of the fangri is ſhort, high, and very ſolid; its form indicates great ſtrength in this part, as its ſtrong jaws, armed with ſharp-edged teeth, are the ſign of its great voracity. The roſtrum is obtuſe; the lips are thick, fleſhy, and moveable; the mouth is ſmall; on the forepart of each jaw are four

* *Sparus erythinus.* LINN.

long

long, ſtrong, hooked teeth, like the canine teeth of quadrupeds. Theſe teeth ſtand apart from each other, and have behind them, both above and below, a number of ſmall looſe hooks, longer in the upper jaw than in the under one. At the end of theſe canine teeth, both jaws have, on each ſide, five other ſhort teeth, broad at their baſe, and terminating in a point; immediately next to theſe, ſtands a double row of teeth, by no means prominent, but broad, in the ſhape of large tubercles, and which may very well be compared to the grinders of quadrupeds.

The apertures of the noſtrils are double, and placed the one before the other, near the anterior part of the eye; that which is the neareſt to the eye is oval, much larger, and more rounded than the other. The eyes are very large. The body is ſhortened; its ſides are flattened; the back is convex, and riſes very much, eſpecially near the head; the belly is convex, and the extremity of the body little elevated, thick, and ſlightly rounded; the caudal fin is forked. A fin occupies the whole length of the back; it has twenty-three rays, twelve of which are prickly, and the fourth is the longeſt of all. The pectoral fins are very long, terminated in a point, and

formed of fifteen rays; the pinna ani has eleven rays, the firſt three of which are bony, and the firſt is ſhort and thick; laſtly, the ventral fins, placed oppoſite the origin of the dorſal fin, have ſix rays, the firſt of which is prickly and terminated by a very fine point, and the ſecond is the largeſt of all.

The lateral line, which is broad and ſtrongly marked, begins above the aperture of the gills, follows the bend of the back, and terminates at the middle of the baſe of the caudal fin. The ſcales, which cover the whole body, as well as the ſides and the under part of the head, are broad, large, thin, and very adherent to the fleſh, from which it is difficult to detach them.

I have ſaid that this fiſh is very rich in colours; in fact, its eyes are of a very brilliant brown yellow, with ſome ſhades or faint ſpots of white and orange colour; the top of its head is of a deep reddiſh brown; the ſides of the head, beginning from beneath the eyes, as far as the angles of the jaws, are of a pretty cherry colour; at the anterior angle of the eyes is a large ſpot of ſhining gold; the operculæ of the gills are of a gray ſomewhat reddiſh, with brilliant reflections of ſilver and gold; the aperture of the gills is bordered with

with brown and gold colour; laſtly, the upper part of the body is of a pale cherry colour, that grows ſtill paler on the under part, which is likewiſe gliſtening with ſilver, each ſcale being of a ſilvery white, and having in its middle a large ſpot of a faint but bright red, which produces a very handſome effect.

The lateral line is of a gray, tinted with fawn colour, and changeable with ſilvery reflections. The under part of the head and the belly are white; the dorſal and pectoral fins are reddiſh; theſe latter have at their baſe a ſpot of iron gray; the pinna ani is of a pale cherry colour, with a white border at its upper part, and its laſt two rays are of a gold colour. The caudal fin is of a deep reddiſh colour, and terminated by a broad border of brick colour. On opening the mouth of this fiſh, it was remarked, that its inſide, as well as its throat, are of a bright red †.

The

† The individual which ſerved for this deſcription had the following dimenſions:

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Total length	1	2	6
Length of the head	0	3	10
—— of the largeſt ray of the dorſal fin	0	1	7
Baſe of the ſame fin	0	5	6

The difference of ſex and age alſo produces ſome variation in the colours of the fangris. In proportion as they grow old, the tints become pale, and the brilliant reflections fade away. In the great number of theſe fiſhes which I obſerved in the LEVANT, I found one which had a very remarkable irregularity: it had, on the left ſide of the roſtrum, a large black ſpot, and it had no trace of any on the right ſide. The ſkin of this individual was livid, the inſide of the mouth and throat were whitiſh, very faintly tinged with red, all its colours were tarniſhed, and it appeared to me that it was either very old or ſickly.

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Length of the pectoral fins - - -	0	3	11
——— of the ventral fins - - -	0	2	5
——— of the pinna ani - - -	0	1	0
——— of the points of the caudal fin -	0	2	10
The greateſt height of the body, meaſured in a ſtraight line from the origin of the dorſal fin to the ventral fin - -	0	4	3
Height meaſured at the extremity of the body	0	1	1
Diſtance from the extremity of the roſtrum to the eyes - - - -	0	1	6
——— to the dorſal fin - - -	0	5	0
——— to the pectoral fin - -	0	3	10
——— to the anus - - -	0	7	0

The

The fiſh which ſerved as a ſubject for the deſcription that I have juſt given, was a male; its inteſtines were filled with remnants of ſmall crabs, and they were enveloped in a great deal of fat. I have ſeen others, in whoſe ſtomach and inteſtines were fragments of ſea-urchins, and even ſome ſmall urchins entire. The liver is very large, of a gray and reddiſh colour mixed, with the exception of its extremity, which is black. The air-bladder is a ſtrong, thick membrane, placed in a horizontal ſituation; it contains the air between it and the ribs, and occupies half of the capacity of the abdomen. The tongue is thick, rather broad, but very ſhort.

The fangri is a voracious and ſolitary fiſh. It dwells in the holes of the rocks: its fleſh is very white, but hard and rather dry; it ſometimes acquires a ſize ſomewhat conſiderable. I ſaw one which weighed fifty-five pounds, and I was aſſured that none larger had been taken in the ſeas of the LEVANT.

I was willing to try whether the property which WILLUGHBY diſcovered in the ſea-bream, a ſpecies nearly allied to the *fangri*, of being luminous during the night*, would

* *Hiſtoria Piſcium*, cap. iv. page 31.

likewiſe be met with in this latter fiſh; but, although I repeated this trial, I never perceived that the *fangri* emitted any light in the dark.

We had ſet ſail from the harbour of RHODES, in company with three veſſels; a Frenchman bound to STANCHO, a Venetian proceeding to the ADRIATIC SEA, and another Venetian, loaded at ALEXANDRIA for the account of the Engliſh merchants, and directing her courſe for LONDON. Our crew, who had learned at ALEXANDRIA the real deſtination and the nature of the cargo of this veſſel, regretted exceedingly not being armed, in order that they might take poſſeſſion of her. Such are the cuſtoms of war, which we have decorated with the empty title of laws, as if acts treſpaſſing on property, and by which we ſtrip individuals, ſtrangers to the cauſes that arm governments the one againſt the other, ought not rather to be conſidered as plundering excurſions than as regular acts.

After having doubled Cape SANT ANTONIO, the moſt northern of the Iſland of RHODES, and conſequently the neareſt to the continent, from which it is diſtant no more than three leagues, we found ourſelves in the middle of the ſtrait which is called the canal of RHODES,

and

and not the CARPATHIAN SEA, as ſome geographers have improperly aſſerted. This CARPATHIAN SEA, which derived its name from the Iſland of *CARPATHOS*, at this day *SCARPANTO*, whoſe coaſts it bathes, is, as well as the iſland itſelf, to the ſouth-weſt of the Iſle of RHODES, between the latter and the Iſland of CANDIA. We left behind us the ſmall Iſland of ELEUSA, placed at the entrance of a gulf which now bears the name of *MARMORO* or *MARMARISSO*, on the coaſt of ASIA MINOR; it was likewiſe called *SEBASTUS*, and it is not half a league in circumference. Not far from this gulf was the mountain of PHŒNICE, on which a town of the ſame name had been built and fortified.

Cape VOLPE, anciently *CYNOSSEMA*, terminates, a little more to the weſt, this part of CARAMANIA, and forms the point of it the neareſt to the Iſle of RHODES. Under this cape is PORTO CAVALIERE, frequented by ſhips of war, which are not always in ſafety without the harbour of RHODES, where they cannot enter.

If the wind have ever ſo little ſtrength, the ſea is always very high in the ſtrait formed by CARAMANIA and the Iſland of RHODES. The waves riſe there ſometimes in a frightful man-

ner; the currents which, in a ſea interſected by iſlands and projecting lands, vary and claſh, are the cauſe of this extraordinary agitation, which is likewiſe increaſed by inconſtant and irregular winds. Indeed, it frequently happens that the wind is different in ſeveral parts of the ſame channel, and that, on one ſide, there reigns a flat calm, while, on the other, the winds blow with violence. Not only are the winds inconſtant in theſe obſtructed ſeas, but they are here felt by ſudden and impetuous ſqualls, which are followed and preceded by dead calms; and theſe violent guſts are ſometimes announced by infallible ſigns. Above the high mountains of which the coaſt of CARAMANIA is for the moſt part formed, it is not uncommon, in clear weather, to ſee a very ſmall black cloud, frequently no bigger in appearance than a bird. This globe of vapours is extremely agitated; at firſt very ſmall, it ſpreads all on a ſudden, contracts, appears and diſappears at intervals above the mountain, and changes its form every inſtant. How calm ſoever the atmoſphere may be, a ſudden and violent ſquall may be expected, at the ſight of theſe inſulated clouds, which diſcharge the wind with ſo much rapidity and vehemence, that if a ſhip be not prepared for be-

ing overtaken by it, ſhe runs a great riſk of loſing part of her ſails, and even her maſts and yards.

On the 28th of October, we experienced one of theſe ſudden ſqualls, after a calm which had kept the ſhip ſtationary abreaſt of Cape *Crio*, a large promontory of Caramania. During this calm, a numerous ſhoal of fiſhes, cleaving the water level with its ſurface, and even darting above it, paſſed cloſe to us with great rapidity; and the agitation of theſe inhabitants of the depths of the ſea, is always a certain preſage of an approaching and violent agitation in the atmoſphere and the waters. A ſmall cloud, the precurſor of the ſtorm, had made its appearance above the promontory; it expanded, and we were overtaken by a gale of wind, which compelled us to take in all our ſails, and continue lying to during the whole night, toſſed about by ſhort and overgrown billows.

On the 30th, in the morning, the wind lulled; but it was ſtill contrary, and the tacks, which it forced us to make in a narrow channel, and in the middle of a very heavy ſea, ſtrained our little veſſel extremely. We had paſſed beyond the ſmall Iſland of Symi, whoſe ancient name, *Syme*, has ſcarcely undergone any

any alteration, while its interior condition has greatly changed. It was formerly cultivated and fertile in grain; at this day, are hardly diſcovered any veſtiges of its ancient culture. The Greeks who inhabit it apply themſelves almoſt excluſively to the fiſhery of ſponges, with which the rocks at the bottom of the ſea that ſurrounds their iſland are covered: they are the boldeſt and moſt experienced divers in the world; they deſcend into the boſom of the ſea, to the depth of twenty or thirty fathoms, that is, one hundred and fifty feet; there, they detach the ſponges from the rocks to which theſe adhere, and then return to the ſurface of the water, in order to take breath for a few moments and dive again. Men, accuſtomed from their infancy to viſit the abyſſes of the ſea, to make of them the fertile fields of their principal harveſt as of their ſole labours, muſt naturally brave with intrepidity the rage of an element with which they have found means to make themſelves familiar, and the depths of which they dread not to viſit: and, indeed, the Symiots are very good navigators; for the intrepidity of a ſeaman is the moſt eſſential quality, as it is the moſt certain ſource of his ſkill. Thoſe Greeks, with very ſmall boats, croſs the ſpaces of ſea

which ſeparate them from the coaſts and from the other iſlands, and, with the produce of their fiſhery, they carry thither the activity of a ſmall traffic, which is adequate to the wants and ambition of a nation of divers.

A laborious life, which requires the exertion of all the phyſical faculties, has made the Symiots a robuſt race of men, of a handſome ſtature. HOMER has extolled the beauty of the king of SYMI, NIREUS, ſon of the nymph AGLAÏA and of the king CHAROPUS. "He was," ſays he, "the handſomeſt of all the "Greeks that went to TROY, if we except the "divine ACHILLES, who was of an accom-"pliſhed beauty *."

The life of theſe iſlanders is ſimple; their nature and the conſtancy of their labours have kept their morals free from corruption;

* The following is POPE's elegant verſion of this paſſage.—*Tranſlator.*

"Three ſhips with NIREUS ſought the Trojan ſhore,
"NIREUS, whom AGLAE to CHAROPUS bore.
"NIREUS, in faultleſs ſhape and blooming grace,
"The lovelieſt youth of all the Grecian race;
"PELIDES only match'd his early charms;
"But few his troops, and ſmall his ſtrength in arms."
Iliad, book ii. v. 815.

and

and Tyranny, which ſo ſeverely oppreſſes their neighbours, has ſpared, or, to ſpeak more correctly, has diſdained a tribe, which, in lieu of opulence, preſents only auſtere habits and laborious occupations, the moſt certain pledges of independence.

Very near to the coaſt of Cape VOLPE, the Iſland of SYMI lies, at the entrance of a gulf which bears its name. Although by no means conſiderable, being ſcarcely two leagues in length by one in breadth, it has two good harbours, fit for the reception of large ſhips, without reckoning ſeveral little bays or coves, in which ſmall craft may lie in ſhelter. The north harbour, barred by ſhoals, is the more ſpacious as well as the more commodious. The moſt northern of the ſhoals which protect its entrance, is named *SAN PAULO*, becauſe it is oppoſite a place of that name, on the coaſt, at the very head of the gulf.

On the other ſide of SYMI, the gulf is formed by Cape CRIO, anciently *TRIOPIUM*, a promontory of DORIS, a province of CARIA, at the extremity of which was built the celebrated city of CNIDUS. Here VENUS was worſhipped: here was ſeen the ſtatue of that goddeſs, the moſt beautiful of the works of PRAXITELES. A temple, far from ſpacious, and

and open on all ſides, contained it, without concealing it from view; and, in whatever point of view it was examined, it excited equal admiration. No drapery veiled its charms; and it was of ſuch uncommon beauty, that it inflamed with a violent paſſion another PYGMALION, who, in the dark, endeavoured to animate a cold and inſenſible repreſentation of a moſt faſcinating woman, and there left traces of a mad profanation*. The moſt advantageous offers could not prevail on the Cnidians to part with this maſter-piece; and PLINY, who relates the fact, praiſes them for a noble refuſal, the object of which immortalized their city, as well as their paſſion for the fine arts. And this paſſion of generous ſouls ſhone on all ſides in the city of CNIDUS: here were ſeen other ſtatues, which, without having the perfection and the ſeducing graces of the VENUS of PRAXITELES, contributed no leſs to the public glory and proſperity, by the crowd of ſtrangers who came to admire them. Heaps of ruins at this day occupy the place of one of the moſt ſplendid cities of an-

* *Ferunt amore captum quendam, cùm delituiſſet nocte, ſimulachro cohæſiſſe, ejuſque cupiditatis eſſe inditem maculam.*—PLIN. Hiſt. Nat. lib. xxxvi. cap. v.

cient

cient GREECE, and the hand which rules over theſe remains prohibits all approach to them, and does not even allow of digging among them, in order to diſcover fragments of its ancient ſplendour.

Independently of a taſte for the arts, the Cnidians had alſo a genius for great enterpriſes. They had reſolved to cut through the baſe of the large promontory which formed their domain, and to convert their peninſula into an iſland. Their ſmall craft would have avoided the long circuit of Cape *TRIOPIUM*, as well as the dangers of the tempeſtuous ſea which breaks on it; and their country, more inſulated, would have been leſs expoſed to attacks and ſurpriſes from the enemy. But an oracle ſuſpended labours which were to turn to the ſafety and proſperity of the ſtate. It was found that the meaning of the two hexameter verſes pronounced by the PYTHIA at DELPHI, ſignified that the inhabitants of CNIDUS were to leave their iſthmus ſuch as it was; becauſe, if JUPITER had willed it to be an iſland, he would have ſaved them the trouble of making it ſo: an abſurd anſwer, calculated only to divert from the execution of grand projects, and worthy of perſonages, who, on myſterious tripods, and in an obſcure language,

language, boaſted of being the interpreters of the gods.

The ſhores of CNIDUS furniſh, as in former times, a very large quantity of fiſhes*. Experience has taught the fiſhermen of theſe ſeas, as well as thoſe of the ARCHIPELAGO, that fiſhes which generally keep in the offing, approach the land during rains and ſtorms, and that then they may eaſily be taken even from the ſea-ſhore; whereas, in fine weather, there remain in the rocks of the coaſt none but ſolitary fiſhes, and thoſe of the ſmall ſpecies, ſuch as the *turdus labrus*, the *turdus julus*, and the *perca cabrilla*.

The wines of CNIDUS were anciently very famous. THEOPHRASTUS ſpeaks of Cnidian onions as of a particular ſpecies†. They were very mild, and did not occaſion tears. It is, indeed, certain that, generally ſpeaking, this plant loves heat, and that its bulbs are leſs acrid in warm countries than in cold or temperate climates. In EGYPT, onions do not bite the tongue in a diſagreeable manner; neither do they excite tears when they are

* OVID called CNIDUS the city abounding with fiſh: *Piſcoſamque Cnidon.*

† Lib. vii. cap. iv,

cut:

cut: dreſſed or raw, they conſtitute the moſt ordinary food in that country.

I doubt not that the exceſſive uſe which is made in EGYPT of this ſpecies of legumes increaſes the diſpoſition to the diſorders of the eyes and of the ſkin; but certainly it communicates not to the men any bad ſmell, as has been aſſerted, in endeavouring to explain the ſtench of the Jews who live among us, from the great quantity of leeks which they employ in their aliments†. If this explanation were well founded, no people on earth would exhale a ſtronger or more diſagreeable ſmell than the Egyptians, who not only eat a great many leeks, but make a prodigious conſumption of onions.

It is very natural to imagine that the onions of CNIDUS had alſo a flavour leſs acrid than thoſe of the north and the weſt, that is, of the leſs warm regions of GREECE.

It is the ſame with garlic, which has likewiſe leſs pungency and ſharpneſs, in a ſoil heated by a burning ſun. The inhabitants of our ſouthern provinces may have experienced this, if they have attempted to eat at PARIS the ſame preparations of garlic as in their

† Fr. Philephi epiſtol.

country;

country; it is there almoſt impoſſible to bear the extreme ſharpneſs of diſhes of this ſort, which are nevertheleſs ſo common in the ſouth of FRANCE.

A clear ſky, a tranquil atmoſphere, a ſea whoſe ſurface was gently ruffled by light waves, had, towards the cloſe of the day of the 30th, ſucceeded to the turbulent and dangerous agitation of the elements. But the faint breeze, which ſcarcely filled our ſails, ſtill blew from a point contrary to our route, and forced us to ply to windward in order to make any progreſs. With the exception of this obſtacle, our voyage was in every reſpect pleaſant. The ſtretches which we made could not extend far in a channel confined by lands on all ſides. Sometimes we approached the lofty coaſts of ASIA MINOR; and the aſpect of the high mountains covered with ancient foreſts, cultivated plains, habitations to which the diſtance gave a cheerful appearance, the diverſity of the ſites and proſpects which every moment changed, drew my attention, and occupied me agreeably; ſometimes a multitude of iſlands and ſhoals were within our reach, and diſplayed to my eyes the dreſs of their plains and of their hills, or the naked-

neſs of their rocks. Ahead and aſtern of us, other lands, which the progreſs of our veſſel cauſed to appear moveable and wandering, limited the view. Approximated to each other, they ſeemed to unite in the diſtance, and encloſe us in a vaſt baſin, which left no opening to our paſſage. A flock of cranes, directing their courſe to the ſouth, that is, towards EGYPT, paſſed over our heads; they flew at ſo great a height, that, although the ſky was very clear, we ſcarcely perceived them; but they made the air reſound with their cries: theſe birds paſs, from one country to another, only in fine weather.

The next day, I ſaw a numerous flight of ducks, repairing, like the cranes, to the rich and humid plains of LOWER EGYPT.

A boiſterous and ſtill contrary wind aroſe on the 1ſt of November. A polypus leaped on board the ſhip with ſo much violence, that in ſtriking me on the thigh, on the quarter-deck, where I was ſeated, it made the ſame impreſſion on me as a bullet thrown with force; it was a calamary or cuttle-fiſh*. The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO call it *calamari*,

* *Sepia loligo.* LINN. *Verm mollusc. Gen.* 296, *ſpec.* 4.

the

the Provençals *totène*, and the French ſeamen of the weſtern ocean, *encornet*, becauſe its rounded form, elongated and terminating in a point, is nearly that of a horn, and contains, in its inſide, a black liquor like ink.

The head of this ſoft and very ſingular animal terminated, on the top and on each ſide, by three tentacula or fleſhy feet, having, along their inner ſide, ſmall cartilaginous tubercles, hollow, twiſted ſpirally, and which, from their conſtruction, perform the office of claſpers. The outermoſt of theſe three tentacula is broader and thicker than the ſecond, and the latter more ſo than the third. The under part of the head is furniſhed with two large tentacula ſimilar to the three of the upper, and covering the origin of two large antennæ of a ſofter ſubſtance, but of an equal ſize to their very end, which has the form of a mace bending inwards like a hand, of which the animal makes uſe for ſeizing its prey and carrying it to its mouth. The little tubercles, of the ſame nature, with which the inner ſide of the feet are furniſhed, ſerve it, probably, for the ſame uſe, and perhaps alſo to hold itſelf cloſe in copulation; for it is well known that theſe polypi couple by intertwining their ſort of

arms, and in the middle of the ſea; ſo that they require to be ſtrongly held the one againſt the other, on account of the agitation of the waters.

Between all theſe tentacula is ſeen a round aperture, the raiſed margins of which repreſent tolerably well the top of a pomegranate, or of the fruit of the wild roſe-tree. The head, compreſſed above and below, is as broad as it is long; the eyes are very large and oblong; the neck is, as it were, enchaſed in a cartilaginous ſheath, covered at top by a bone by no means ſolid, flattened, and caſed with a ſkin: even with this bone is, on each ſide, a cartilaginous membrane or fin, elevated in its middle, and one of the extremities of which terminates with the body, and the other, at about two-thirds of its length. The upper part of the ſheath, at the ſetting on of the neck, forms a point above, and a ſlope below. It has a ſpecies of beak very hard, and perfectly ſimilar to that of a parrot. The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO give to this beak the name of *karidi*, which means a wall-nut.

This calamary was red above, and white, ſpeckled with a bright red, below. Its principal

cipal dimenſions will be found in the ſubjoined note*.

The body of the calamary is very ſlippery, and difficult to be held in the hand. The younger it is, the ſofter is its ſubſtance; but it acquires conſiſtency in proportion as the animal increaſes in ſize.

The navigators of the ocean aſſert that the calamary becomes one of the largeſt animals of that ſea; which would not be eaſy to believe, if it be true, as BELON† ſays, that this polypus lives little more than two years. It is conſidered as a preſage of a tempeſt, when the calamaries dart out of the water. The ſame day that one came on board of our ſhip, I ſaw, in the afternoon, a conſiderable ſhoal

	Feet.	Inches.	Lines.
* Total length, from the end of the antennæ to the extremity of the body	1	1	6
Length of the outermoſt of the upper tentacula or feet	0	8	8
——— of the under tentacula or feet	0	9	3
——— of the antennæ - -	0	8	0
——— of the ſheath or body -	0	5	6
Height of the fins in their middle -	0	1	5
Length of the eyes - -	0	0	8½
Their breadth - - -	0	0	6½

† *De Aquatil.* lib. ii. cap. ii.

of them; they roſe rather high above the ſurface of the ſea, in the manner of flying-fiſhes, and carried with them a portion of water, which, in falling again, formed a long ſtring, ſimilar to a detached tail, which united them for ſome time to the ſea, and which, variouſly coloured by the refraction of the ſun's rays, produced a very agreeable ſight, owing to the tints with which, in broad day, the humid bodies of the calamaries themſelves glitter.

On the ſhores of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, calamaries are caught with hook and line; and it is principally during the winter that moſt are taken. Their cartilaginous fleſh is rather bad eating, and appeared to me difficult of digeſtion; it is nevertheleſs a diſh much in vogue among the Greeks. The beſt manner of dreſſing it, is to fill the inſide of the polypus with minced meat; but however good may be the ſtuffing, it ſcarcely renders the fleſh of this animal more delicate.

We muſt diſtinguiſh a ſpecies or a variety of calamary, alſo common in the ſeas of the LEVANT, which the preſent Greeks call *trapſalo*, and the Provençals *arugi*. This polypus bears much reſemblance to that which I have juſt deſcribed. It differs from it, nevertheleſs, by its eyes being of an extraordinary

ſize,

ſize, its fins of leſs extent, its feet having a greater number of ſmall bony points to their cartilaginous tubercles, the back-bone leſs length, and the ſheath a ſmaller quantity of black liquor; laſtly, by its becoming very large. The Greeks, ſtruck by theſe traits of conformity, affirm that their *trapſalo* is only the calamary changed by age; however, I have ſome difficulty in being perſuaded that differences ſo marked as thoſe which I have indicated are but ſimple effects of the diverſity of age. Theſe diſparities in the forms are alſo to be found in the habits; the arugi approaches the coaſt more frequently than the calamary; it often comes on the ſand of the ſhore, and there depoſits its eggs, whereas the calamary never goes on land. Theſe arugis, from their habit of frequenting the land, are oftener taken than calamaries, properly ſo called. Their fleſh too appeared to me better, and leſs difficult of digeſtion; but their eggs have a ſlight purgative property, from which no bad effects are felt.

I have been aſſured that the little polypi which were ſometimes met with in the open ſea, and in large bodies, were of this latter ſpecies. In 1774, I found in the ſtomach of a ſhark which we caught in the ocean, be-

tween the tropics and near the weſt coaſt of AFRICA, one of theſe polypi, which was ſcarcely ſix inches long, and the ſubſtance of which was almoſt as ſoft as mucilage. This extreme ſoftneſs was partly owing to the tender age of the animal, as well as to the commencement of digeſtion which it had experienced in the ſtomach of the ſhark. The drawing which I cauſed to be taken of it, and which I give here, (*Plate IV. fig.* 3.) repreſents it of the natural ſize.

By dint of ſtruggling againſt the wind, which as well as the ſea began to riſe, we reached the Iſland of STANCHO, and we there caſt anchor at day-break, on the 2d of November. But before I ſpeak of that iſland, it is expedient to meaſure back my way, and make mention of ſeveral other iſlands which are ſituated to the right, that is, to the ſouth of the route which we had juſt followed.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER X.

A philoſophical view of the Iſlands of the Mediterranean.—Scarpanto.—Caſſo.—Caſſian *Iſlands.* — Limonia.—Narki.—Piſcopia.—Niſari.—Madona.

WHEN we direct our view over that immenſe number of broad elevated lawns, of ſummits of mountains, of points of rocks, placed without order and very near to each other, with which the MEDITERRANEAN is covered on the eaſt, we cannot avoid thinking that this extent of ſea, thickly ſtrewn with a multitude of lands, has formed a continent in times the moſt remote, and that a ſudden irruption of the waters of the BLACK SEA, earthquakes, and the violent action of volcanoes, have inundated that ancient country of GREECE, and torn it into innumerable ſhreds. Vaſt and deep chaſms have ſwallowed up a conſiderable portion of that country, and there has

has remained of it only peaks of mountains, furrowed by cavities and fiſſures, in which the confuſion of the ſubſtances atteſts that they have been overthrown.

Each of theſe iſlands, the remains of an ancient land, violently ſhaken, and for the moſt part ingulfed by one of thoſe great cataſtrophes of Nature, the traces of which are ſo ſtrongly imprinted on the ſurface of the globe, has near it iſlets, rocks emerging from the waters, or concealed beneath them, ledges, ſhoals, fragments of its ancient junction with a neighbouring iſland, or with the continent: it is ſtill eaſy for the obſerver to follow ſome of the lines which connected theſe lands with each other, and to convince himſelf that they all formed but one uninterrupted country.—Who knows even whether it be not in this part of the MEDITERRANEAN, rather than in the ocean, that we muſt look for the ſite of the famous ATLANTIS of PLATO? That celebrated philoſopher of antiquity has ſaid, in expreſs terms, that it was to the ſouth of ATTICA, which juſtifies the well-founded preſumption that it was ſituated towards the coaſt of LIBYA.

Every thing then in the univerſe is conſigned to deſtruction; all created beings ex-

perience various modifications and periſh; the Creator alone is immutable and eternal. When ſubſtances the moſt hard and moſt ſolid, and which ſeemed to brave the attacks of time, melt or are pulverized in the fire of volcanoes, and are diſſolved by the action of the air and the waters; when the face of the globe changes, either by the ſudden effect of ſubterraneous convulſions, or of great inundations, or by cauſes more ſlow, but not leſs active, man, in the courſe of his ephemeral exiſtence, diſputes with man the ruins of this earth, abandoned to powerful and continual agents of deſtruction; inſtead of employing himſelf unremittingly in cultivating and embelliſhing the places where he is fixed. Yielding to the rage of ambition, he forſakes pleaſing occupations, uſeful labours; and, arming himſelf with all the reſources that the genius of devaſtation can engender, he covers with ruins and havock an abode already expoſed to the ravages of ages, and which he is to inhabit only during ſo ſmall a number of years. At the call of an ambitious or wicked man, the human race become ſeized with the fury of battle; they threaten, claſh, and tear each other to pieces; nations devote themſelves to hatred and to death; whole generations ruſh into

into carnage, and are drowned in blood; while piles of carcaſſes form a maſs of horror and corruption, which rage, inceſſantly reviving, will not fail to increaſe.

I have already ſaid that the little Iſland of SANTA CATHERINA appeared to have been detached from the ſouth point of the Iſle of RHODES; it is a remnant of the land which joined it to another country, in like manner inſulated, and which bears the name of the Iſland of SCARPANTO; the latter was anciently called *CARPATHOS* or *CARPATHUS*, and gave its name to the CARPATHIAN SEA, that is, to that ſmall extent of ſea which lies between the Iſlands of RHODES and CANDIA, and of which poets have frequently made mention. Not ſo large as the Iſle of RHODES, it is of the ſame form, or nearly ſo, being conſiderably longer than it is broad; it is little more than from ſeven to eight leagues in length, by about three in breadth. STRABO has alſo deſignated it under the denomination of *TETRAPOLIS*, becauſe it contained four cities; other hiſtorians reckon ſeven; at this day there are no longer any. Some very good harbours afford ſecure ſhelter to ſhips ſurpriſed by a ſtorm, or buffeted by contrary winds, in a ſea which leaves but little open ſpace to be traverſed.

traverſed. I did not viſit this iſland, in which poets feigned that PALLAS was born and paſſed her infancy; nor did I find any opportunity of converſing about it with perſons who had viſited it: I only know that it has high mountains, rich in minerals, which the iſlanders dare not touch, richer ſtill at their ſurface, from the luxuriant paſtures which there grow; that its ſoil is fertile; that game is in plenty, and that its coaſts abound with fiſh; and that laſtly, and this is not one of its leaſt advantages, no Turk makes it his reſidence. I ſhall add, that the ſituation of SCARPANTO, between two large iſlands, and on the track of ſhips bound to CYPRUS, SYRIA, and EGYPT, may become the emporium of a great trade, as its harbours and its fertility would render it a very convenient place for anchoring and procuring ſupplies.

Between Cape *PORNISA*, the moſt ſouthern of that iſland, and Cape *SIDERA*, the moſt eaſtern of the Iſland of CANDIA, but nearer to the former than to the latter, is another point of connection between the two; the ſmall Iſland of *CASSO*, the ancient *CASOS*, or *CASUS*, a name which the Italians, and after them the Provençal navigators, have metamorphoſed into that, more indecent, of *CAZZO*.

A town,

A town, which was alſo called *Casus*, from the name of the father of Cleomachus, who conducted inhabitants thither, had been built anciently in this iſland: it no longer exiſts; and the population of the iſland, entirely compoſed of Greeks, is not conſiderable.

This iſland, which is only three leagues in circumference, is little frequented by ſhipping, its road being difficult of entrance, and its ſhore dangerous of acceſs; the inhabitants, on that account, are but the more happy and more free: the Turks ſeldom venture to go thither to exerciſe the deſpotiſm with which they overwhelm the countries ſubject to their empire. And, indeed, thoſe Greeks of Casso, more independent and more ſecure in their property, are more laborious than elſewhere; their toil and induſtry have introduced fertility on a ſoil of which the ſtratum even of vegetable earth, which covers the rocks, appeared not to render it ſuſceptible; the vines which grow on this ſtony ground, furniſh them with very good wine; and the honey which they gather is ſtill, as in ancient times, abundant, and of an excellent quality. The Caſſiots, like all the inhabitants of the ſmall iſlands which cannot ſupply the wants of their population, are navigators and traders; but

their

their induſtry in that line does not extend beyond the limits of the ARCHIPELAGO.

Several iſlets or ſhoals lie near the northern coaſt of the Iſland of CASSO; the ancients called them the CASSIAN Iſlands, or Iſlands of the Caſſians; they are barren, and ſcarcely covered with a few buſhes; they ſhelter the road of CASSO from the winds and the ſea to the north.

To the weſt of SCARPANTO, other arid and uninhabited iſlets riſe above the ſea: navigators alone have an intereſt in knowing their poſition; and the chart, annexed to this work, indicates it with exactneſs.

The firſt iſland which we had left on our right, on quitting the Iſle of RHODES, is that of *LIMONIA*. It is by no means extenſive, and its length greatly exceeds its breadth. Its eaſtern coaſt preſents a ſmall haven, defended by a ſhoal, and on the margin of which ſtands the only village in the iſland.

At ſome diſtance from LIMONIA is *NARKI* or *KARKI*, a ſmall iſland, which neither has more extent nor importance; it anciently bore the name of *CHALCIA* or *CHALCIS*, and the extreme fertility of one of its diſtricts was much extolled. In 1658, the Venetians ſacked it moſt completely, in order to puniſh the inhabitants

bitants for having taken up arms againſt them; and, ſince that diſaſtrous period, the fatal abuſe of power and injuſtice, population has been ſcanty, and culture in a languiſhing condition. Several ſhoals, riſing above the waters, are the indications of the ancient junction of the lands of LIMONIA and NARKI.

Further on, towards the north-weſt, and nearly in the middle of the diſtance which ſeparates the Iſle of RHODES from that of STANCHO, is the Iſland of *PISCOPIA*, a little larger than the Iſlands of LIMONIA and NARKI, which I have juſt mentioned. It has a tolerably good harbour and ſeveral anchorages, very uſeful to ſhips which frequent theſe ſeas. The ancients called it *TELOS*, and they highly eſteemed the perfumes which were there prepared. This branch of trade is loſt; but it is a proof of the goodneſs of the ſoil of PISCOPIA, and of the mildneſs of its climate; circumſtances the moſt favourable to the expanſion of the ſweet odour of plants and flowers.

The Iſland of NISARI, anciently *NISYROS*, comes next, facing Cape CRIO, from which it is diſtant only three leagues. It is a land ſeparated from the Iſland of STANCHO; the poets had preſerved the memory of this event by

by a fable, which, like almoſt all thoſe of antiquity, was founded on facts hiſtorical and real. They therefore related that NEPTUNE, being in purſuit of a giant, detached a piece of the Iſland of Cos in order to overwhelm him, and that this piece, under which the giant was cruſhed, is become the Iſland of NISARI; a temple had there been erected to NEPTUNE, in order to perpetuate the remembrance of its formation. Under this allegory, it is not difficult to diſcover that the effort of NEPTUNE to conquer the reſiſtance of the giant, is nothing more than the violence of an irruption of the waters, which, burſting through every obſtacle, worked themſelves a paſſage acroſs the lands of Cos or of STANCHO, as they have opened ſome on a multitude of points in the ſame ſeas. NISARI is an iſland of little extent, elevated, and ſtony; warm waters and other veſtiges of volcanoes are there to be met with; grind-ſtones are very common, and it produces in abundance ſeveral ſorts of commodities; but it wants a harbour where veſſels can caſt anchor in ſafety.

Between the Iſland of NISARI and that of STAMPOLI, there are iſlets and rocks, of which an inſpection of the chart will convey all the knowledge that it is neceſſary to obtain.

Among theſe ſhoals is to be ſeen a very remarkable one; the Europeans call it *Madona* or *Our Lady*, and the Greeks, *Panagia*, a word which has the ſame ſignification. It is the point of a very high mountain, and the higheſt, perhaps, of all the portion of the continent of Greece ſwallowed up in the waters. What appears of it ſtill is very elevated above the ſea, and preſents only an enormous block of rock, naked, ſteep, and almoſt inacceſſible. However, ſome Greek monks, devoting themſelves to abſolute retirement, and availing themſelves of the fiſſures which ancient convulſions, or the injuries of the air, have ſcattered over this rock, have ventured to climb up it, and conſtruct on its ſummit a little chapel, dedicated to the Virgin, and a habitation, or rather a grotto, conſecrated to an auſtere ſolitude and the contemplations of aſcetic life. What an abode for the man, who, free from all paſſion, can live independent and ſecure from the ſhock of the paſſions of his fellow-creatures! Commanding a very extenſive view, his eye reaches over a part of the Archipelago and of Greece; in the midſt of countries, whoſe population is numerous and agitated, his tranquillity is as complete as if he did not inhabit the

the earth; devoid of ambition, a boat ſuffices to procure him the neceſſary articles of life: ſhips conveying riches frequently acquired at the expenſe of honour, and ſtained with human blood, ſail around him, conducted by men, who, on more than one occaſion, have envied his fate; calm amid the moſt frightful tempeſts, he beholds the impetuous and noiſy waves break at his feet; while he is above the reach of the ſtill more terrible ſtorms of cupidity and ambition.

CHAPTER XI.

Stancho.—*Ancient* Cos.—*Town of* Stancho.—*Its gardens, its harbour.*—*Agent of the conſulate.*—*Plague.*—*Iſland of* Stancho.—*Its population, its climate, its productions.*—*Silk-worms.*—*Plane-tree.*

NO one is ignorant that the Iſland of *Stancho* or *Stanchio*, of the European navigators, is that which the Greeks called and ſtill call the Iſle of *Cos*. According to the remark of Choiseul-Gouffier*, this denomination of *Stancho* or *Stanchio*, ariſes from the manner in which navigators, too apt to diſfigure every name, underſtand the words which the Greeks employ for ſaying that they are going to Cos, *eis ten Kos*, and which, pronounced rapidly, make *Stinco*: but it is through a miſtake, the origin of which I am unable to diſcover, that the moſt eſteemed geographers

* *Voyage Pittoreſque de la Grèce*, chapter vi.

ſay

ſay that the ſame iſland alſo bears the name of *Lango*.

Every one knows too that at Cos, 460 years before the chriſtian era, Hippocrates, the lawgiver of phyſic, was born: his theory, founded entirely on obſervation and experience, has outlived ages: and the aphoriſms which it contains are ſtill, after thouſands of years, the ſafeſt rule for the conduct and the duties of all thoſe who wiſh to conſecrate, with ſucceſs, their days to the relief of mankind. The god of medicine was revered in the ſame ſpot which gave birth to the firſt of phyſicians. The temple of Æsculapius occupied a part of the ſuburb of the city of Cos; it contained the moſt valuable offerings, a tribute of the gratitude of the ſick who had obtained their cure; and inſcriptions indicated the diſorders by which they had been afflicted, and the remedies which had relieved them†. This cuſtom, at the ſame time religious and civil, was well calculated to excite emulation among thoſe who made a profeſſion of the art of healing, and to keep at a diſtance ignorance and empiriſm.

† *Voyage du Jeune Anacharſis*, chap. xliv. according to Strabo, book viii and xiv.

Cos was likewiſe the country of APELLES, the moſt celebrated painter of antiquity, to whom alone it was permitted to paint ALEXANDER, the greateſt hero of his time, if however heroiſm can conſiſt in the exerciſe of the moſt terrible power, which nature and humanity reject with horror, that of diſturbing, of tormenting nations, and ſlaughtering mankind. Poſterity, leſs fortunate with reſpect to the painter, has not collected his works; we know them only by the tradition of the moſt brilliant renown, while the books of the father of medicine, more uſeful and more durable, have been handed to us, as the beſt ſchool in which we can learn to ward off from our frail and tranſitory exiſtence the ills by which it is threatened and oppreſſed.

Other men, illuſtrious in the arts and ſciences, owe their birth to Cos. My object, as I have announced, not being to retrace the ancient hiſtory of the countries which I have viſited, a hiſtory repeated in ſo many books, and known to all thoſe who have received a liberal education; and the little I ſay of it being intended only to approximate, or rather to contraſt the flouriſhing ſituation of theſe places in ancient times, with the ſtate of decay, and of wretchedneſs almoſt general,

ral, in which we ſee them in our days, I have made mention of the greateſt men of whom Cos was the cradle and the abode, only for the purpoſe of recalling to mind how celebrated and flouriſhing that city muſt have been, from the concurrence of the ſciences and arts which there ſhone in all their luſtre. Cos was, in fact, magnificent in its interior, as well as very agreeable from its poſition; its harbour was alſo one of the fineſt and moſt frequented in theſe ſeas.

It is almoſt needleſs to mention that there no longer exiſt any traces of the ancient city; the temple of ÆSCULAPIUS, the ſacred wood by which it was ſurrounded, the other monuments have there been effaced, as well as the memory of the celebrated men who conſtituted its glory. Such is the fate of all the cities, of all the edifices, of all the countries abandoned to the devaſtation of the Turks, a warlike and barbarous nation: like the birds of night, whoſe eyes are hurt and cries excited by the rays of the ſun, the luſtre of the fine arts dazzle them, and the ſciences are to them no more than an object of contempt. Such is generally the deplorable lot of every country governed by the force of arms, and in which the ſword gives the law.

The modern town of STANCHO is ſmall; its buildings have nothing remarkable; but its ſituation on the ſea-ſhore is the ſame as that of the ancient city, and its environs are ſtill very agreeable. It is ſurrounded by orchards of lemon and orange trees; their flowers, which the warmth of the climate multiplies and perfumes, there diffuſe delightful emanations, and their ſucculent fruits are in ſufficiently great abundance for affording, at a very low price, to its inhabitants a ſalutary and pleaſant refreſhment, and for becoming an article of their commerce. Cargoes of oranges and lemons are there ſhipped, and conveyed to different parts of TURKEY, but principally to SMYRNA and CONSTANTINOPLE.

The harbour, which is defended by a caſtle, kept in bad order, though formerly ſafe and deep, can no longer receive any but ſmall veſſels; large ſhips remain without, in a road where there is good holding ground, but which they, nevertheleſs, avoid during the winter, becauſe it is open to the winds and the ſwell from the north and weſt. Scarcely had we caſt anchor there, than a meſſenger from the French conſul, who reſided in the iſland, came to apprize us that the captain of a Pro-

a Provençal merchant-veſſel, who had brought to STANCHO ſome Turkiſh paſſengers from CONSTANTINOPLE, had juſt expired of the plague. Although we were in want of ſome proviſions, our determination was ſoon taken, and we reſolved to endure a few privations, and to quit very ſpeedily a ſhelter which the contrariety and the violence of the winds had rendered neceſſary to us, rather than expoſe ourſelves to the moſt dreadful of contagions.

However, as we were to wait till the night had lulled the wind, and cauſed a land-breeze to ſpring up, I could not determine to remain ſo near an iſland, which I was no longer to have an opportunity of viſiting, without landing. I promiſed my companions, who were not well pleaſed to ſee me go on ſhore, to take every precaution which could inſure them that I would not render them victims of what they called an imprudence. The ſhip's boat landed me alone on the beach; and, for fear of any communication, ſhe returned on board very quickly. I repaired to the houſe of M. MASSE, who, for twenty-ſix years, had exerciſed, at STANCHO, the functions of agent to the general conſulate of SMYRNA. I was received with the frank and cordial

cordial civility of an honeſt man, proud of long ſervices which remained unrewarded. "I am by no means aſtoniſhed," ſaid he to me, "that a man, whoſe courage has led "him to undertake difficult travels, who "has braved the ferocity of the inhabitants "of EGYPT and the robberies of the Arabs, "ſhould not have been intimidated at the "notice of the plague. You are in the right "to baniſh the fear of that diſorder; this "is the firſt of preſervatives. The imagina- "tion affected, the mind depreſſed with fear, "are diſpoſitions which ſeem to bring on the "diſeaſe, inſtead of warding it off. The "plague, according to every appearance, is "on the point of being propagated in this "iſland; the indifference of the Turks re- "ſpecting every precaution which might "avert this ſcourge, or arreſt its progreſs, "will leave an open field to the develop- "ment of the fatal influences of the con- "tagion, the firſt ſymptoms of which have "already made their appearance; and this "year it will make great ravages."

I begged the agent to explain to me on what he grounded his fatal prognoſtic. He anſwered, by communicating to me a remark, which his long reſidence in TURKEY had

enabled him to verify, and which, by eſtabliſhing a ſingular affinity between two epidemical diſeaſes, might contribute to a more certain knowledge of their nature. M. MASSE then firſt informed me, that the plague never broke out at STANCHO but in the month of January, and afterwards obſervation had aſcertained that, in the years when the contagion was likely to be violent, it was preceded by a general ſmall-pox, which carried off a great many children. On my arrival, the ſmall-pox was making ravages; and this circumſtance left, in the mind of M. MASSE, no doubt reſpecting the more terrible havock with which the plague would deſolate the iſland, if, in the courſe of two months, it there developed the germs which had juſt been brought thither.

This obſervation appeared to me new and important; it may throw a great light on a diſeaſe which is ſcarcely known but by its cruel and rapid effects, and ſerve as a clue to the curative means which are yet to be ſought. How many obſervations of that kind might not be collected! But it requires time and patience. The example of HIPPOCRATES, the greateſt obſerver of his age and of thoſe which have followed, has not many imitators:

imitators: we are fonder of writing than obſerving. Every one, now-a-days, is eager to enjoy ſome reputation, by haſtening to ſhew himſelf in open day, and does not trouble himſelf whether the enjoyments of others anſwer to that premature deſire of getting himſelf talked of; young people, ſcarcely emerged from ſchool, aſſume a magiſterial tone, and are not aware of the facility with which a ſchool-boy becomes a pedant; others eſtabliſh theories before they have acquired experience; the ſciences and letters cannot be enriched by this cloud of productions which afford no information, except the advantageous opinion which their authors have conceived of them; and had we not ſtill remaining a few great maſters, the honour of the ſciences and of our literature, we ſhould regret that we are not born in a time when the temple of ÆSCULAPIUS and obſerving genius furniſhed to a philoſopher, the friend and comforter of mankind, the materials of the immortal leſſons which he has written in a manner at once ſimple, natural, and ſublime.

The population of the town of STANCHO is, in a very great meaſure, compoſed of Turks: the Greeks form that of the reſt of the iſland; but it is not very numerous.

Here

Here, there is no place of any conſequence but the capital itſelf. The iſland, which is much longer than it is broad, is, indeed, of no great extent; but the beauty of its climate and of its ſoil, its fecundity, and its natural allurements would render the ſmallneſs of the number of its inhabitants an extraordinary circumſtance, did we not recollect that this charming country is under the immediate command of the Turks, who, occupying the town, are enabled to exerciſe with greater violence the tyrannic ſway, by which plains the moſt populous and moſt productive may become deſert and uncultivated. PORCACHI has aſſerted that the air of STANCHO was unhealthy and ſubject to ſeveral impreſſions of malignancy, which there produce various contagious diſeaſes*. DAPPER has copied PORCACHI†; geographers have copied DAPPER, and, in our days, their books repeat that STANCHO is an iſland dangerous to be inhabited. But this aſſertion is ill-founded; voyagers the moſt modern and beſt informed, among whom I ſhall content myſelf with quoting M. DE CHOISSEUL-

* *Deſcription des îles de l'Archipel.*

† *Deſcription exacte des îles de l'Archipel.*

GOUFFIER,

Gouffier‡, have taken good care not to repeat it; and M. Masse, who, as I have before ſaid, had reſided at Stancho for twenty-ſix years, aſſured me that he had there ſeen no other epidemical diſeaſes than the ſmall-pox, the ravages of which are common in ſeveral other countries, and the plague, which is brought thither from foreign parts.

And when we pay attention to the ſituation and the nature of this country, it would be difficult to diſcover there the cauſes of ſo great an inſalubrity of which the ancients have not ſpoken; while they have highly extolled the charms of the Iſle of Cos. Here no ſtagnant water ſpreads noxious exhalations; here the earth is not impregnated with hurtful ſubſtances; high mountains prevent not the circulation of the air; the atmoſphere is not humid; the rains are not continual, and, for the moſt part, the ſky is clear and ſerene; the fertility of the ſoil is rich and brilliant; and it is rare and very difficult, in the midſt of this prodigality of

‡ "This iſland has nothing that diſtinguiſhes it at pre-
"ſent; the beauty of the climate, the fertility of the ſoil,
"and the abundance of the fruits, are properties common
"to theſe countries." *Voyage Pittoreſque de la Grèce*, vol. ii.
"page 105.

the

the favours of Nature, for germs of corruption and death to ſpread and continue.

Some very high mountains command the ſouth part of the iſland. Navigators, anxious to ſhelter themſelves from the impetuous northerly winds, find, in that quarter, a propitious retreat in the little harbour of *Safodino*. The remainder of the iſland is a beautiful plain, of admirable fecundity, the treaſures of which, in a great meaſure neglected, wait for happy changes in order to diſplay all their magnificence. Fruits, ſuch as oranges, lemons, whoſe trees form groves where the golden apple waves on all ſides in the midſt of a thick and perfumed foliage; figs, grapes, &c. are there delicious. The wine which is drawn from theſe laſt is delicate and agreeable: M. Masse made me taſte ſome which was not inferior to the moſt exquiſite wines of Greece. The variety of flowers and fruits, with which the gardens are embelliſhed, flatters the ſmell more agreeably than all the perfumes of Arabia; in ſhort, if a wiſe and happy liberty could be revived on a land which claims it, the country of Hippocrates and Apelles would ſtill be an enchanting abode.

Excellent paſtures formerly fed numerous flocks, that furniſhed wool with which the inhabitants

habitants manufactured ſtuffs, much eſteemed, both for their fineneſs and the brilliant colours with which they were dyed. This kind of induſtry is loſt, with a part of the riches that conſtituted the ſplendour of the iſland; and fleeces leſs taken care of, as well as leſs common, are no longer wrought either with the ſame art or the ſame delicacy.

Previouſly to the laſt century, commerce drew, from the Iſle of STANCHO, a tolerably good quantity of ſilk; but, for ſeveral years paſt, none is there to be found. The climate is, nevertheleſs, very favourable to the culture of mulberry-trees, and to the worm which feeds on them. ARISTOTLE attributes the invention of winding into ſkains the cods of the ſilk-worm and of making ſtuffs of them to PAMPHILA, daughter of LATOÜS, an inhabitant of the Iſle of COS*; and PLINY, who gives the ſame account, adds with a tone of irony and indignation, that indeed this girl ought not to be deprived of the honour which ſhe has acquired in finding means of dreſſing women as if they were naked†. What PLINY ſays afterwards of ſilk-worms,

* Hiſt. Animal. lib. v. cap. xix.
† Hiſt. Nat. lib. ii. cap. xxii.

which,

which, in the Iſle of Cos, are reported to be produced from the bloſſoms of the aſh, the oak, and the cypreſs*, is very ſurpriſing, and would give room to preſume, with ſome learned commentators, that the inſect of which ARISTOTLE and PLINY have ſpoken, the former under the name of *bombylios*, and the latter under that of *bombix*, is not the ſame as our ſilk-worm, if we were acquainted with any other to which we could apply what they have ſaid of it; if, beſides, we did know, from modern accounts, that ſilk-worms feed in CHINA, not only on the aſh, but alſo on the oak, and even on the cypreſs, and the turpentine-tree†. Are there ſeveral ſpecies of the ſilk-worm, or inſects yielding a ſilk ſimilar to that of theſe worms? Are we ignorant of the reſources which Nature has diffuſed in different countries, according to the differences of the ſoil and climate, for the nouriſhment of ſilk-worms? What knowledge natural hiſtory and rural economy have ſtill to acquire!

* Hiſt. Nat. lib. ii. cap. xxiii.

† See the ſecond edition of the *Travels into the Interior of China*, by Lord MACARTNEY, tranſlated by *Caſtéra*, vol. v. page 291.—Note of the French tranſlator.

I paſſed the whole day in viſiting the environs of the town, and walking in the rich and delightful groves by which it is ſurrounded. The obliging M. Massé choſe to accompany me; and his information, the fruit of a long reſidence in the Levant, rendered his converſation a ſource of inſtruction and entertainment. In croſſing the town, in order to proceed to the ſea-ſhore, I ſaw the famous plane-tree *, which covers the little public ſquare with its antique and twiſting branches, and cools it with its impervious ſhade. Pillars, or rather fragments of pillars of marble and granite, have been erected by the inhabitants in order to ſupport ſome thick branches, which, being too far diſtant from the trunk, and loaded with boughs and leaves, would break and ſink down through their own weight. Theſe pillars are, according to what M. Masse told me, the only remains of ancient monuments which are to be met with in the whole Iſland of Stancho, if we except a few medals of little value.

A fountain has been built under the ſhade of the plane-tree: it ſupplies the wants of the

* *Platanus Orientalis.*—Linn.

Turks,

Turks, great conſumers of water; and they find, in a coffee-houſe eſtabliſhed under the ſame foliage, the warm beverage made from the berry of the ſhrub of ARABIA, and which ſerves them in lieu of wine and every other fermented liquor. The Turks, to whom cool places are a want and a delight, aſſemble under the prodigious plane-tree of STANCHO; every one of them feels a pleaſure in taking care of it, and they have, for this tree, a ſort of religious reſpect, which is ſhared by the families of birds that dwell and neſtle on its branches.

It would not be an inquiry altogether uſeleſs or indifferent to vegetable phyſiology to make known the age of a tree ſo enormous; but information, very eaſy to obtain in EUROPE, is impoſſible to be collected in TURKEY, where indifference reſpecting the moſt memorable events, the want of regiſters and written memoirs leave in oblivion facts which appear only matters of mere curioſity. The wood of the plane-tree is as hard as that of the oak; the tree is, conſequently, very ſlow in acquiring its growth; and if we pay attention to the truly-aſtoniſhing thickneſs and extent of the plane-tree of STANCHO, we ſhall believe, without difficulty, that upwards

of ten centuries have elapſed, ſince the period of its being planted.

The night was ſhut in, when I repaired to the ſhip, ſatisfied with my little excurſion, and with not having been deterred from landing by the dread of the plague. I diſpelled the alarms of the crew by the detail of the precautions which I had taken to avoid all dangerous communication, and, on the morning of the 3d, we got under way before day-break.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XII.

Nautical remarks.—The flag-ſhip of the Turkiſh navy carried off by a handful of chriſtian ſlaves.—Captain of a Malteſe privateer.—Unhappy ſituation of the Greeks in the ſmall iſlands of the Archipelago.—*Man, the moſt cruel of all animated beings.—Gulls.—Gulf of* Stancho.—Ceramus.—Halicarnuſſus.—Boudron.—Mindes.—Salvadigo.

THE eve of our departure from STANCHO was the day which the catholic church conſecrates to the memory of the dead, (the 2d of November, *All-ſoul's* day), a day remarked by the navigators of the MEDITERRANEAN, whom experience has taught that at this period they have to apprehend ſtormy weather. But this obſervation, of long practice in navigation, is not to be underſtood in a literal ſenſe; and it is the ſame with the gale of wind of ST. FRANCIS's day, or of the 4th of October, which the ſeamen of the weſtern

ports of FRANCE dread in the northern ſeas: it is not always preciſely in the courſe of the days of the 4th of October or of the 2d of November that ſhips are aſſailed by a ſtorm; but they do not eſcape it, either a little before, or a little after. We had occaſion to verify the correctneſs of theſe nautical remarks; for on *All Soul's* day itſelf the weather was not bad; nor was it ſo even the next day; but, in the evening, a ſhoal of porpoiſes, having paſſed with rapidity ahead of the veſſel, we thought it our duty to prepare for ſome ſudden guſt of wind. In fact, on the 4th, an impetuous north-weſt wind roſe all at once; the ſea became furious; we drifted towards the coaſt of CANDIA. It was not poſſible, during the ſtorm, to think of looking for the bad harbour of CANEA, for which our veſſel had taken in her cargo, and we conceived ourſelves very happy to be able to enter that of SUDA. We caſt anchor there on the 6th of November in the evening, after having been in danger of being loſt on the rocks of Cape *MELECOA*.

During the run of about ſeventy leagues, which we had made from STANCHO to SUDA, we had paſſed between ſeveral lands, of which I ſhall now ſpeak, in order that I may not have

have to return to this quarter, the moſt eaſtern of the ARCHIPELAGO: I therefore reſume my narrative, beginning from STANCHO.

A few years before I was at STANCHO, the roadſtead had been the theatre of a ſcene, in which energy and enterpriſing genius on the one hand, and negligence and ſtupidity on the other, acted a memorable part. There, the flag-ſhip belonging to the Turks was carried off by a few chriſtian ſlaves, in the very midſt of the Ottoman fleet, and taken to MALTA, without reſiſtance. I beheld, with an extreme degree of intereſt, the ſpot where ſo extraordinary a trait of courage and preſence of mind had occurred: and I repreſented to myſelf the ſtupid aſtoniſhment of the Turks, when they perceived their principal ſhip of the line going off under full ſail. This adventure, which gives the meaſure of the capacity and foreſight of the officers of the Muſſulman navy, had made a great noiſe in the LEVANT, where I have heard it related repeatedly; but I have likewiſe had the particulars of it from the leader himſelf of this bold *coup de main*, having known him during my ſtay in the ARCHIPELAGO.

A Turkiſh ſquadron, commanded by the High Admiral, or Captain Pacha, anchored at STANCHO, in the feſtivals of the *Beïram*, which terminate the faſt of the *Ramadan*. The celebration of theſe religious and ſolemn feſtivals had attracted to the town the greater part of the officers and crews of the ſquadron, and even the Captain-Pacha himſelf. Twenty or twenty-five Europeans, taken in privateers belonging to MALTA, and reduced to ſlavery, ſerved on board of the flag-ſhip. Captain G***, one of the moſt intrepid commanders of theſe privateers, who had fought the Muſſulmans under the flag of the order of MALTA, was one of the ſlaves. Overwhelmed by numbers and by wounds, he had yielded, and had been thrown into irons; the opportunity appeared favourable to him for releaſing himſelf from them: he haſtened to communicate his plan and his boldneſs to his companions of misfortune, among whom were ſome Malteſe, Corſicans, and Italians, and to inflame them by the hope of liberty and of a rich booty. Their reſolution was ſoon taken; they fell on the firſt Turks that preſented themſelves; they diſarmed them, and threw them all, one after the other, into the hold, the hatchways of which they ſecured.

cured. To cut the cables, hoiſt the ſails, and get under way, was the buſineſs of the ſame moment. The other ſhips having no orders, and perceiving no ſignal, quietly beheld the departure of the flag-ſhip, which they might ſuppoſe bound on ſome temporary expedition; and it was not till the Captain-Pacha, apprized too late, in the midſt of the exerciſe of his piety, and himſelf contemplating from the ſhore his own ſhip ſailing away with a leading wind, that the ſquadron got under way; but the purſuit was uſeleſs. The ſhip, conducted by ſkilful ſeamen, eſcaped from them, and, a few days after, arrived off MALTA.

Every one there was very much ſurpriſed to ſee in the offing a large ſhip of war of Turkiſh conſtruction, ſteering towards the entrance of the harbour. The galleys, the ancient monuments of the exploits and valour of the knights of MALTA, were ſent to reconnoitre; the artillery was prepared; no precaution of defence was neglected: diſpoſitions were made for repelling the attempts of the enemy; but enthuſiaſm ſucceeded theſe warlike preparatives, when it was known that the ſhip whoſe approach had occaſioned alarm, was brought in by countrymen and friends, whom

whom there was little expectation of ſeeing again, and that they had made themſelves maſters of riches which were ſtill leſs to be expected.

In fact, the value of this important prize was immenſe. A ſhip of the firſt rate, with her rigging, furniture, ſtores, proviſions, ammunition, and her braſs artillery, the money and jewels of the principal officers of the Ottoman navy, part of the ſums which the ſquadron had previouſly levied on the annual tribute of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, formed a very rich booty, to which it was neceſſary to add the price that the order of MALTA paid for every Mahometan priſoner, who, from retaliation were all thrown into irons. The heroes who had ſeized all theſe treaſures, had no inconſiderable number of Turks on board; and it had entered into their ſpeculations, not to kill any of them, if poſſible, in order to increaſe the ſhare which they promiſed themſelves from the prize.

But policy deranged theſe great projects of fortune, and fruſtrated hopes which ſound morality diſapproves, but which cuſtom and the ſort of juſtice reſulting from it, authorize. The court of CONSTANTINOPLE could not endure

endure ſuch a humiliation: it addreſſed that of VERSAILLES, and claimed its interference. The latter required from the grand maſter that the ſhip ſhould be reſtored; and officers belonging to the navy of FRANCE were ordered to take charge of her at MALTA, and carry her to CONSTANTINOPLE, where this act of generous condeſcenſion, on the part of the French government, made a very favourable impreſſion. This was not the caſe at MALTA; there the knights beheld with concern the departure of conſiderable riches, the property of which appeared inconteſtably acquired, and the reward of the bravery of their intrepid cruiſers. By way of indemnification, the captors were allowed a ſum which they conſidered as moderate, in compariſon to the money that the ſale of the prize would have procured them, and it is added, that they waited a long time before it was paid.

Captain G*** ſpoke to me of this diſappointment with much bitterneſs, and in the ill humour which the recollection of it had left on his mind, his hatred had well nigh fallen as much on the French as on the Turks. Although he had every thing to dread from the animoſity of the latter, he was willing to attempt

attempt once more to carry on war againſt them, and to enrich himſelf with their ſpoils. I ſaw him in the ARCHIPELAGO, commanding a faſt-ſailing veſſel, well armed and well equipped. To great intrepidity he joined admirable coolneſs, and a firmneſs of character by no means common. The Greeks trembled in his preſence, as before the commanders of the Turkiſh veſſels of war; tyranny was the ſame: but that of the Malteſe, leſs violent, leſs impetuous than that of the Turks, had ſomething more impoſing, and more formidable, becauſe it was calm, cool, and rational. At ARGENTIERA, I was ſhewn the ſite of a houſe which he had cauſed to be pulled down, and which no one durſt rebuild. This happened on the following occaſion.

The fate of the Greeks, inhabitants of the ſmall iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, abandoned to themſelves, and who ſeemed to be ſought only to be tormented and plundered, was truly deplorable. If a Turkiſh ſhip, or the ſmalleſt galiot belonging to that nation, puts into one of theſe iſlands, the commander becomes its deſpot; the chiefs of the town or village haſten to kiſs his hand and receive his commands. He diſpoſes of every thing; cauſes to be delivered to him the proviſions and all

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the articles of which he ſtands in need, impoſes labours on the men, ſets up for ſupreme judge, decides controverſies, ſettles quarrels, condemns to fines which muſt be paid immediately, orders the baſtinado, on the ſole of the feet, to be applied as he thinks proper; in ſhort, his ſtay ſpreads terror and conſternation. Did a Malteſe privateer appear in her turn, nearly the ſame ſcenes of the abuſe and harſhneſs of power and of debaſement were repreſented; the ſame compliments, the ſame preſents, the ſame taſks, the ſame arbitrary acts, the ſame humiliations, and ſometimes even ill uſage.

One of the obligations of rigour impoſed on theſe unfortunate Greeks, was, as ſoon as a Malteſe or Turkiſh veſſel caſt anchor in their harbour, to ſtation perſons to look out on the moſt elevated points, in order to diſcover at a diſtance ſhips at ſea, to give notice of their approach, and to ſkreen a more troubleſome gueſt from the danger of being ſurpriſed by his enemy. G*** had juſt arrived in the road of ARGENTIERA; watches had been placed, according to cuſtom, at the top of towers built on ſome eminences which overlook the village on every ſide; the captain of the privateer was on ſhore with part

of his crew, when a veſſel was ſeen to enter the road. The negligence of the ſentinel poſted on the ſide from which the veſſel came, was cruelly puniſhed. G*** ordered his houſe to be demoliſhed, and forbad that, as long as he ſhould live, any one ſhould preſume to build on the ſame ſpot. The order was executed in every point, and, ſeveral years after, I ſaw the ruins of the habitation of a whole family, over-run by brambles and ſerpents, and ſtill ſtruck by the curſe of a plundering adventurer.

I was witneſs of the ſang-froid of this ſame Captain G***, on another occaſion, where he had like to have pronounced again the fatal anathema againſt another houſe in the village of ARGENTIERA. He had landed there with ten men well armed; and while the latter were diſperſed among the inhabitants, whom they laid under contribution, he dined at the houſe of the French agent where I was. In the middle of dinner, his people ran in, quite ſcared, to announce to him that a veſſel was coming into the road, and that ſhe had the appearance of an enemy. G***, without riſing from his ſeat or being in the leaſt diſconcerted, ordered them to bring to him the *épitropo*, a ſort of mayor

or ſyndic. The latter being arrived, G*** aſked him what man of his village he had placed to look out at ſuch a tower? And, on receiving his anſwer, he enjoined him to lay hold of that man and bring him into his preſence. This order being given in a tone to exact prompt and unqualified obedience, he roſe from table, and turning towards his people, ſaid to them: "Come, my lads, let "us march, and prepare to attack and exter- "minate thoſe dogs of Turks!" He did not go far, becauſe it turned out that the veſſel arrived was a Raguſan trader; but he was not diſpoſed, on that account, to puniſh leſs cruelly the Greek who had neglected to give notice of the approach of this veſſel; and it was not without great difficulty that the agent and I, by dint of earneſt ſolicitations, ſucceeded in obtaining his pardon. A few days after, G*** was ſo fortunate as to ſurpriſe a caravel coming from ALEXANDRIA, richly laden, having on board the annual tribute which EGYPT paid to the Grand Signior. A prize of this importance inſured the fortune of the captors; and I know not whether G***, who already lived at MALTA in eaſy circumſtances, covered with years and wounds, having been a long

long time in ſlavery among the Turks, has been able to make up his mind to paſs the remainder of his life in tranquillity, and to expiate, by acts of beneficence and the exerciſe of the virtues, a career of diſorder and pillage.

Man is not the only animated being that afflicts the earth by cruelties: moſt animals partake of his voracity; but, limited to ſatisfying their appetite, they do not, generally ſpeaking, deſtroy but in proportion to their hunger: thoſe of the ſame ſpecies tear not each other to pieces, and it is only on ſtrangers that they exerciſe their gluttony. Man, on the contrary, the implacable murderer of animals of every ſpecies, is alſo the murderer of his own: it is not merely his inſatiable appetite that muſt be gratified; but an inextinguiſhable thirſt for riches, the factitious wants of ſociety, impels him to every exceſs, to every crime, to an atrocious indifference to bloodſhed; and, on this globe, the vaſt empire of rapacity, he proves himſelf to be the moſt ferocious, the moſt ruthleſs of tyrants.

A very faint image of this common tyranny is conſtantly retraced in the roadſtead of Stancho. Gulls, which the inhabitants of our

our coaſts of the MEDITERRANEAN, call *gabians*, real feathered pirates, are there met with in great numbers. Sometimes they are ſeen cleaving the air in every direction, venting their ſharp and tireſome cries, ſometimes reſting themſelves on the waves, riſing and falling with them, watching for ſmall fiſhes, ſeizing them with their ſharp-edged and crooked bill, and darting voraciouſly on the entrails of animals and other filth thrown overboard from the ſhipping. The fiſhermen of the LEVANT commonly employ for bait the fleſh of gulls cut into bits; ſo that there exiſts, between thoſe birds and the fiſhes, a ſort of ſympathy of appetite, of reciprocity of gluttony by which they are mutually led to devour each other.

Whether a veſſel enter the road, or whether, without ſtopping there, ſhe paſs into the narrow channel which ſeparates the Iſle of STANCHO from the main land, ſhe ought carefully to avoid a low and dangerous point, at the extremity of the moſt weſtern cape of the iſland, and one of its ancient points of junction with the continent. This cape is ſcarcely more than a league diſtant from Cape *PATERA*, which, with that at preſent named Cape *CRIO*, already mentioned,

forms a deep gulf of ASIA MINOR, which, in our time, is called the *GULF OF STANCHO*, from the name of the iſland ſituated at its entrance. This was anciently the *CERAMIC GULF*; it formed the ſeparation of CARIA and DORIS, and derived its name from *CERAMUS*, a maritime town of CARIA. At this day its ſite and name are to be found in a place of little importance, called *KERAMO*.

It would not be ſo eaſy a matter to recogniſe HALICARNASSUS, in the harſh and barbarous name of *BOUDROU* or *BOUDROUN*, did we not poſitively know that in this place exiſted that ancient and celebrated city, at the entrance of the gulf, on the coaſt of CARIA. Rich and flouriſhing from its great commerce, magnificent from its monuments*, HALICARNASSUS has ſtill greater claims to laſting renown, for having given birth to two great hiſtorians, HERODOTUS the father of hiſtory, and DIONYSIUS ſurnamed of HALICARNASSUS. And where is the love-ſtruck and feeling mind that does not recollect,

* M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER has given ſome very beautiful remains of it in the firſt volume of his *Voyage Pittoreſque de la Grèce*, which is itſelf a monument raiſed to the love of the fine arts.

with

with affecting emotion, that here, an inconſolable wife cauſed to be erected, by the moſt celebrated artiſts of GREECE, a ſuperb tomb, a monument of her grief? ARTEMISA wiſhed to immortalize the memory of king MAUSOLUS, her huſband and brother, and above all her regret at having loſt him, by the conſtruction of an edifice deſtined to contain his cheriſhed aſhes; a work which was ranked among the ſeven wonders of the world. But, through another miracle of tenderneſs and affliction, this diſconſolate wife, whoſe grief ſoon carried her to the grave, found no other means of comforting her heart, than by making it the worthy and ſenſible mauſoleum, in which the exceſs of love ſeemed to reſtore to life inanimate remains: till her death, ſhe failed not to mix in her drink ſome of her huſband's aſhes. How amiable and attracting would hiſtory be, how it would honour the human heart, had it only to tranſmit facts of this nature!

The fortreſs, which is at the entrance of the preſent harbour of BOUDROUN, is the work of the knights of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, who made themſelves maſters of this place, when, after the firſt cruſades, they had eſtabliſhed themſelves at RHODES. They

conſtructed this citadel on the foundations of the magnificent palace of the conſort of ARTEMISA; they named it *CASTEL SAN PIETRO*, or in Spaniſh, *SAN PEDRO*. Of this the Turks made *BEDRO*, then *BOUDROUN*, changing the P into B, according to their manner of pronunciation*. Coats of arms, ſculptured in ſome compartments of the walls, ſtill ſhew, as at RHODES, in whoſe hands BOUDROUN was, before it paſſed into thoſe of the Turks. But it is not neceſſary to reach the ſhore, in order to be convinced that the latter are its poſſeſſors. Their negligence is manifeſt as ſoon as one approaches the harbour, which the Turks have ſuffered to be choked up, ſo that there is no longer water enough for large ſhips; this harbour is nevertheleſs ſafe and commodious, leaving to the wind and ſea only a very narrow entrance.

Not far from HALICARNASSUS, and at the extremity of the ſame peninſula, was another city of CARIA, neither ſo large nor ſo celebrated, called *MYNDUS*; its name alone has been preſerved, and it is ſtill known by the name of *MINDES* or *MINDESSE*.

* CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER, *Voyage Pittoreſque de la Grèce*, vol. i. page 155.

The

The cape, which terminates to the north the large promontory or peninſula forming the north ſide of the Gulf of STANCHO, is called Cape *GUMICHLU* or *ANGELI*; it is oppoſite to Cape PATERA, and at the entrance of another gulf, which the ancients called *JASSIUS SINUS*, from the name of the City of *JASSUS*, which ſtood in its receſs.

Between Cape GUMICHLU and Cape PATERA, the coaſt is ſtrewn with ſhoals, which are called the *SALVADIGO* Iſlands. They render the approach to this land dangerous to navigation.

ſtitute the wealth of a country, would, under theirs, become a ſource of oppreſſion and ruin.

This is likewiſe the caſe with the Iſle of LERO, between which and the Iſle of CALAMO we paſſed, in order to proceed to CANDIA. It neither has more extent nor more advantages; a good harbour and a few coves, high mountains, in whoſe boſom mines and quarries of marble might be worked, an ungrateful ſoil, its inhabitants under the neceſſity of ſeeking abroad ſuccours by navigation and traffic, a communication far from frequent with foreign ſhipping, are ſo many traits of conformity between theſe two iſlands.

LERO has not changed the name which it bore in antiquity; but its preſent ſtate is very different from that formerly enjoyed by this colony of Mileſians.

We then paſſed between the Iſlands of *STAMPALIA* and *AMORGO*, after having left, between this latter iſland and that of LERO, ſome barren and uninhabited iſlets, which are called *LEVATES*, anciently *LEBYNTHOS*. Ships may anchor near the largeſt of theſe iſlets.

In the name of *STAMPALIA*, or *STAMPALÆA*, we again find that of *ASTYPALÆA*, which the ſame iſland formerly bore. This name of *ASTYPALÆA*, which, in its proper ſignification, means

means the *ancient city*, is ſaid to be derived from that of the daughter of PHŒNIX and PIRAMEDE, ſiſter of EUROPA, and beloved by NEPTUNE, by whom ſhe had ANCÆUS, who reigned over the people named LELEGI*. This iſland was alſo called *PYRRHA*, *PILEA*, and at length *THEON-TRABEZA*, that is, *the table of the gods*, becauſe its ſoil is rich with the gifts of fertility, and almoſt every where enamelled with flowers.

In the time of PLINY, it was an independent country, which belonged to no one†. Here ACHILLES had a temple, and here that ſort of worſhip which was paid to valour, undoubtedly contributed to maintain among its inhabitants the energy neceſſary for people who are not willing to ſubmit to the yoke of a conqueror.

If we choſe to give to STAMPALIA an epithet which might be applied to its irregular form, we ſhould call it *the Indented Iſland*. Its ſhores are, in fact, as if rent, and preſenting a multitude of points and ſinuoſities, which form ſo many bays and coves more or leſs fit for the anchorage of ſhips or boats; but we can ſcarcely reckon there more than

* PAUSANIAS, book vii. chap. iv.

† Hiſt. Nat. book iv. chap. x.

two harbours; the one to the ſouth, the other to the north. It is much longer than it is broad, being only two leagues in its greateſt breadth, and ſix in length. It is not very lofty, and no high mountains cauſe it to be diſcovered from afar. Soil of this nature is the moſt adapted to fecundity, which takes delight in embelliſhing plains and hills, and does not extend to the top of ſteep mountains. STAMPALIA is one of the moſt fertile iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO; its inhabitants partake of the mildneſs of the climate and the goodneſs of the ſoil; and there is not to be found in their character the roughneſs and aſperity of their neighbours, the iſlanders of CALAMO and LERO, countries ungrateful and rugged.

But, in regions ſo favoured by Nature, and ſo disfigured by the form of the adminiſtration to which an unhappy and too laſting a lot has ſubjected them, the gifts of brilliant fecundity are ſcourges, and a ſtony aridity is a deſirable bleſſing. The one, the natural and legitimate ſource of riches, becomes that of frequent exactions. The more a country is beautiful and ſmiling, the more it attracts the attention and the viſits of ſtupid and ferocious extortioners, who there ſpread diſcouragement

ment and annihilate agriculture; whereas thoſe mad deſpots, who ruin themſelves by ruining their domain, avoid barren countries, and dread men who live on mountains, the uſual aſylum of poverty, courage, and independence.

Were I at liberty to chooſe an agreeable retreat, which, without being ſolitary, ſhould be free from noiſe or interruption; which ſhould not be deprived of communications from without, yet ſhould but ſeldom occaſion them to be wiſhed for; which, under a happy temperature, would keep me alike ſecure from the oppreſſion of heat and from the ſharp ſenſations of cold; in which an eaſy culture would yield me much beyond what can be expected from trifling labours, at the ſame time that I ſhould find there the abundant reſources of a wholeſome and varied food; where my ſteps and my ſight would wander with ſo much ſatisfaction and pleaſure over plains enriched by the bounties of a fruitful agriculture, and chequered with a multitude of flowers ſown by the hand of Nature; where, in ſhort, beauty is in a delightful harmony with tenderneſs and ſenſibility, my choice would fall on STAMPALIA, provided that it ceaſed to be ſubject to the

empire of the Turks, and that not one of thoſe profaners of the fineſt countries of the earth could pollute it with his preſence.

The ſea is no where ſo full of fiſh as on the ſhores of an iſland which Nature had deſtined to be fortunate, and which the barbarous power of the Turks has contrived to render unhappy. The fiſhes, which I there ſaw the moſt commonly taken, are the following:

1. The weever*, the *dracon* of the ancient Greeks, and which the moderns ſtill name *drakaina*. In requeſt for our tables, on account of the exquiſite taſte and the firmneſs of its fleſh, fiſhermen dread it, from the pain and danger which they experience from the puncture of the prickles with which it is armed, and with which it ſtrikes with much force and addreſs. The moſt common method of catching theſe fiſhes in the ſea of the ARCHIPELAGO is with ſilk lines, which are ſunk to the bottom of the water, and care is taken, as ſoon as any are caught, to knock them in the head, in order to avoid their venemous wounds. I have known, in theſe ſeas, a fiſherman, who, having been pricked by a weever, experienced great inflammation, and

* *Trachinus draco.* LINN.

a con-

a conſiderable ſwelling, attended with fever and delirium.

I have ſeen weevers whoſe colours were not the ſame, and which had, on the ſides of the body, large black ſpots that others had not; but theſe differences are not, perhaps, ſufficient for conſtituting diſtinct ſpecies, as ſeveral naturaliſts have imagined; ſince the differences conſiſt only in varieties of colours, the effect of the different nature of the bottom where they feed, and of a few other circumſtances, and ſince, beſides, theſe fiſhes, whatever may be the diſſimilarity of their tints, have all the ſame forms, and the ſame characters, as well internal as external.

By the account of the fiſhermen of the LEVANT, weevers do not there exceed a foot; and, indeed, that ſize is even uncommon. They are pretty frequent in thoſe ſeas, and their fleſh is there much eſteemed; but as, without being hard, it is more firm than that of other fiſhes, it is cuſtomary to allow a longer time for its being dreſſed.

2. The mugil or mullet*, to which the modern Greeks have preſerved the name of *kephalos*, given it by their anceſtors. The

* *Mugil cephalus.* LINN.

Turks,

Turks call it *kefal-baluc*. Many of theſe fiſhes, which are of a ſmall ſize, are taken in the ARCHIPELAGO during the ſummer: they require, according to every appearance, a more open ſea, when they have attained a larger growth; for thoſe caught on the coaſt of the Iſland of CANDIA are generally larger than thoſe found in the narrow channels which ſeparate the iſlands; unleſs we imagine ſmaller mullets to be a diſtinct variety, to which the Greeks give the denomination of *kephalo-poulo*, little mullet.

3. The mormylus†, or *mormyra* of the modern Greeks, a name which differs very little from that of *mormyros* or *mormylos*, under which the ancients knew that fiſh, on account of its whiteneſs and its marbled ſpots. Silvery white, blue, and gold colour yellow, gliſten on its ſcales, and cupreous reflections increaſe their luſtre. Its fleſh does not correſpond with the beauty of its exterior; it is far from firm, and ſometimes contracts the taſte of mud, in which the mormylus delights, and where it feeds on little cruſtacea and molluſca.

† *Sparus mormyrus*. LINN.

Writers

Writers on ichthyology have ſaid that the mormylus ſcarcely attains more than the length of a foot. I ſaw one in the ARCHIPELAGO which was upwards of a foot and a half in length.

4. Another fiſh of the ſame genus as the mormylus, but whoſe fleſh is delicate and well-taſted, is called by the modern Greeks *melanouri*. It is the *oblade* of our coaſts in the MEDITERRANEAN†, the *melanouros* of the ancient Greeks, and the *klali* or the *ſcharguſch* of the Arabs. I give the figure of it (*Plate IV. fig.* 1.), becauſe I found that it was by no means exact in the books of natural hiſtory of fiſhes, which is owing, perhaps, to the exiſtence of ſome variety in this ſpecies.

The name of *melanurus* has been given to this fiſh, on account of a large black ſpot which it has on each ſide of the tail, near the fin. Other ſpecies alſo bear the ſame ſpot; but they are eaſily diſtinguiſhed from this, which has the body more elongated, and the eyes larger: this latter character has likewiſe procured it the denomination of *ocalata* in Latin, and *occhiata* in Italian. A colour

† *Sparus melanurus.* LINN.

of

of a blackiſh blue, with reflections ſhining with ſilver, adorns, with changeable ſhades, the upper part of the body; it grows fainter on approaching the belly, which is of a ſilvery white. The eyes are of a gold colour yellow, with a few light and blackiſh ſhades. The colours are more faint and leſs dazzling on the ſcales of the females and the young ones. When theſe fiſhes are ſtill ſmall, the Greeks call them *aphropſara*, froth-fiſhes.

The bait the moſt in uſe for taking the melanurus in the ARCHIPELAGO is a mixture of bread and cheeſe, which is thrown on the water.

5. The *ſkatari* of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, another ſpecies of ſparus which has much affinity to the cantharus*, or ſilvery-eyed ſparus, with yellow, longitudinal, parallel lines; but which, at the ſame time, differs from it ſufficiently to be conſidered as a diſtinct ſpecies, or at leaſt as a conſtant variety. (See *Plate V. fig.* 2.) The drawing repreſents exactly all the details of exterior conformation; and the moſt certain manner of expreſſing them, being to ſpeak to the eyes by good figures, I ſhall diſpenſe with

* *Sparus cantharus.* LINN.

endeavouring

endeavouring to trace thoſe forms by words, which, however clear we may ſuppoſe them, preſent but an imperfect image of the objects which we purpoſe to deſcribe. I ſhall confine myſelf to ſaying a few words of the parts which do not appear in the drawing.

The opening of the mouth is very ſmall, if we compare it to the ſize of the fiſh. Each jaw is furniſhed in front with long teeth, bent inwards, pointed, and ſufficiently diſtinct from each other for thoſe above to lock between thoſe below, and *vice verſâ*. The number of theſe teeth is not the ſame in every individual: I have ſeen ſome with twelve; others with ten in each jaw; ſome again have only ten above and twelve below. Behind theſe teeth, the jaws are thickly beſet with a great number of ſmall points, which render them rough to the touch like a raſp; and on the ſides is a row of other teeth, ſhort and ſlender; the tongue is terminated in a point; and in the inſide of the throat there is, both above and below, a bony tubercle covered with aſperities.

The *ſkatari* has the upper part of the ſides of the head of a gray, variegated with a blackiſh hue; the top of the head, between the eyes, appearing, in certain lights, of a cupreous and azure blue; a blackiſh tint

round the eyes; the operculæ of the gills of a brilliant, cupreous green colour, with blackiſh variegations; the ſides of the body of a blackiſh gray, deeper towards the middle, and ſtriped, throughout all the length, with lines of a ſky blue; the under part of the head and body variegated with gray and white; the dorſal fin half blackiſh gray, and gray clouded with bright blue; the caudal fin of a gray, gliſtening with cupreous reflections, and terminated in black; the pinna ani ſpotted with gray and bluiſh, with a gray border, and a little bright blue in the part occupied by the prickly rays; the ventral fins variegated with gray, white, and bluiſh; laſtly, the pectoral fins gray, with tints of ſky blue. The lateral line is of a yellow, ſlightly tinged with a bluiſh caſt; the eyes are blue, with white ſpots, and the inſide of the mouth, as well as the tongue, is white.

I obſerved, that all the fiſhes of this ſpecies had not the ſame tints, nor the ſame colours; and theſe trifling diſparities are probably produced by age, ſex, or the nature of the bottom. They all have the gall-bladder elongated and cylindrical, the ſpleen blackiſh, the liver large, and of a reddiſh gray, the air-bladder very ample, and of the ſame form

as

as that of the *fangri**. Their fleſh is firm and delicate; they approach the coaſts only during bad weather: I have been aſſured that the ſeaſon for ſpawning was in the months of September and October. Theſe fiſhes are of an extreme voracity, and they exerciſe it on thoſe of the ſmall ſpecies; almoſt all the ſkataris which I opened, had the ſtomach and inteſtines filled with *athernos*, fiſhes of which I ſhall ſpeak in the ſequel.

6. The *cabrilla*†, a ſmall fiſh which has many affinities to the perch. The Greeks have preſerved to it the ancient name of *channo*, from the verb *chainein*, which ſignifies to gape, becauſe this fiſh almoſt continually keeps its mouth open, and ſeems to gape. (See *Plate IV. fig.* 3.)

In the ſeas of the LEVANT, are caught cabrillæ which vary in colour: theſe differences, according to the Greek fiſhermen, are owing to the diverſity of the bottom on which the cabrillæ live habitually; and this obſervation is, with ſome modifications, perhaps applicable to other ſpecies of fiſhes. The cabrillæ, which keep on a rocky bottom, have colours

* See page 175 of this volume.

† *Perca cabrilla.* LINN.

more lively and more variegated than thoſe which remain, from preference, on a bottom ſoft and muddy. Among the great number of fiſhes of this ſpecies which I examined in the ARCHIPELAGO, I remarked four very diſtinct varieties.

Thoſe of the firſt have the head variegated with brown, red, and bluiſh gray, with orange colour ſtreaks; the upper half of the body of a bright brown, ſhaded with gray, with broad ſtripes of a reddiſh brown; the lower part of the body of a bluiſh gray, ſtriped longitudinally with orange colour; the under part of the head red; the belly of a pale roſe colour; the dorſal fin blackiſh at its baſe, afterwards bluiſh, then flaxen, laſtly bordered with gray, with white ſpots; the caudal and anal fins bluiſh, and ſpotted with flaxen; the ventral fins of the ſame bluiſh colour, with yellow lines between the rays; the membrane of the pectoral fins of a bluiſh gray, and its rays of a gold colour; the eyes orange colour; the inſide of the mouth a little reddiſh, and the tongue white.

The cabrillæ of the ſecond variety differ from thoſe of the firſt, by a broad ſtripe of a reddiſh brown dividing them into two equal parts throughout all their length; by another ſtripe

ſtripe, equally broad, of an orange colour, having immediately underneath it a bar of ſky blue, extending from the pectoral fins to the tail, on a bluiſh gray ground; by having the under part of the head of a bright red, and the iris of the eyes yellow, and ſpotted with red.

A third variety comprehends the fiſhes of this ſpecies, whoſe head is of a gray ſhaded with a bluiſh tinge, with flaxen lines; the upper half of the body gray, and ſtriped with large tranſverſal bands of a fawn colour gray, the other half bluiſh, and ſtriped longitudinally with flaxen colour; the whole body gliſtening with reddiſh reflections; the under part of the head of a pale roſe colour; the belly white, lightly ſhaded with red; the caudal fin bluiſh, ſpeckled with bright blue and orange colour, and terminated with a blackiſh tint; the pinna ani without ſpots, and the iris of the eyes white.

Laſtly, and this laſt variety is very uncommon, are ſome cabrillæ which are white, and whoſe tranſverſal ſtripes are of a very light fawn colour, and the longitudinal lines of a very light red.

If the reader compare theſe details reſpecting the forms and colours of cabrillæ with the

incomplete and even incorrect deſcriptions which are to be found in the works of naturaliſts who have ſpoken of them, ſuch as BE'LON, RONDELET, SABIAN, WILLUGHBY, &c. he will be convinced that the natural hiſtory of fiſhes has ſtill much to acquire, and that a multitude of obſervations is wanting for our knowledge in this line, to be on a par with that which has been collected in ſome other branches of zoology. This branch, however, is not the leaſt important; it intereſts the arts, commerce, and navigation, thoſe powerful vehicles of the wealth and proſperity of nations; and the laudable curioſity, which leads well-intentioned perſons to learn and admire the infinite and majeſtic variety of the works of Nature, finds an aliment worthy of it in that immenſe crowd of beings that people the waters, and there diſplay the dazzling reflections with which the ſcales of the greater part of them glitter.

But ſo intereſting a branch of the ſcience of Nature is on the point of taking a new flight, and reaching the pitch which has been attained by other parts more eaſy, but neither more agreeable nor more uſeful to be cultivated. BUFFON had given an impulſe to every mind;

mind; the knowledge of natural hiſtory, generally neglected or confined to the narrow circle of the learned, became a prevailing taſte, a want for men animated by the deſire of inſtruction; the genius of the PLINY of FRANCE, equally lofty, equally ſublime, but leſs gloomy than that of the PLINY of antiquity, lighted them with his torch, and led the way to the ſanctuary of Nature, whoſe moſt ſecret receſſes, and moſt precious materials, he had begun to unveil and expoſe to admiration. In terminating a career of glory which conducted him to the temple of Immortality, this man, of gigantic renown, againſt which the efforts of audacious Mediocrity, and the ſhafts of obſcure Envy, are annihilated, like feeble waves againſt a rock ſtanding on an unſhaken baſe; this man, I ſay, the cheriſhed confidant and painter of Nature, bequeathed his rights and his pencils to him of his cotemporaries the moſt worthy of that brilliant and honourable inheritance. We love to find again the ſucceſſor of BUFFON, to follow him in his profound reſearches, to contemplate the colouring and harmony of his pictures, to participate in the movements of the exquiſite ſenſibility of his ſoul; and if BUFFON found means to render the ſtudy of

the natural hiſtory of quadrupeds and birds ſo attracting, it was reſerved for LACE'PE'DE to diffuſe the ſame charms on the natural hiſtory of fiſhes.

An ancient naturaliſt, whoſe name ought of courſe to be claſſed with thoſe of PLINY, BUFFON, and LACE'PE'DE, has ſaid that the cabrillæ were all females*. This opinion was ſo widely ſpread, that it was adopted even by the poets†. RONDELET affirms that all thoſe which he diſſected had a womb‡; other authors have repeated what was written by ARISTOTLE and RONDELET; but this obſervation has, without inquiry, been rejected by DUHAMEL‖. However, the remark of ARISTOTLE is not deſtitute of foundation; and if we choſe to take the trouble of verifying moſt of the facts which the valuable works of antiquity ſet forth as true, and which thoſe of our days declare to be falſe, we ſhould, perhaps, get the better of the frenzy that

* ARISTOTLE, Hiſt. of Animals, book iv. chap. ii.; book vi. chap. xii.; and Treatiſe on Generation, book iii. chap. v. and x.

† *Concipiunt channæ gemino fraudata parente.* OVID.

‡ *Apud Geſnerum, in aquatilibus, de channa.*

‖ *Traité de Pêches*, part ii. ſect. iii. chap. iii. art. ii.

leads

leads us to reject a multitude of obſervations, which, although they claſh with general ideas, are not, on that account, the leſs real.

I endeavoured to aſcertain whether ARISTOTLE had been miſtaken on this occaſion, as DUHAMEL has aſſerted. I opened ſeveral cabrillæ in the LEVANT; and, if they were not all females, properly ſo called, all might be reckoned real hermaphrodites, ſince all had ſeed or ſoft roe, and at the ſame time an ovarium, containing eggs in a ſmall quantity.

Theſe fiſhes ſcarcely exceed eight or ten inches in length, in the ſea of the ARCHIPELAGO, where they are frequently met with. It is in autumn that they appear there moſt commonly, and are caught with greater facility, becauſe they are then aſſembled in ſhoals. They devour fiſhes ſmaller than themſelves, but nevertheleſs ſufficiently large to appear ſecure from the voracity of cabrillæ: I ſaw one five inches long, which had ſwallowed an atherno of nearly three inches in length. And, indeed, their gluttony has become proverbial among ſeveral nations of the Eaſt. However, the fleſh of the cabrilla is white, firm, and well-flavoured; but it is full of ſmall bones, which render it troubleſome to be eaten.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XIV.

Amorgo.—*Oracle invented by the Greek monks.*—*Preſent ſtate of that iſland.*—*Archil.*—*Trade of the French and of the Engliſh in the* Levant.—*Squills or ſea-onions.*—*Tetters.*—*Teeth.*—*Prejudices.*—*Women of* Amorgo.—*Their dreſs.*—Amorgo-Poulo.—*Iſlets.*

TO the north-weſt of the Iſland of STAMPALIA is the Iſle of AMORGO, which, in the time of PLINY, bore the ſame name of *AMORGOS*, or *AMORGUS*; more anciently it was called *HYPERA*, and before then *PATAGE*, and, according to others, *PLATAGA**. It is not quite ſo large as STAMPALIA, and its ſhores are leſs winding, and leſs thickly furniſhed with capes and points: accordingly it preſents not ſo many retreats to navigators. There are none on its long eaſtern coaſt, which is very ſteep, and we can ſcarcely reckon more

* PLINY, Hiſt. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xii.

than two tolerably commodious harbours, or havens, on its weſtern ſhore; the one, to the north, is called *Porto Sant' Anna*; and the other, to the ſouth, and the better, *Porto Vathi*.

The inhabitants of Amorgo were formerly friends to the ſciences and fine arts; at this day they are devoted to ignorance, and to ſuperſtition, its faithful companion. In the country which gave birth to Simonides, he of the Greek poets who poſſeſſed, in the higheſt degree, the art of moving the paſſions, and of cauſing the ſweet tears of ſenſibility to flow, are now to be found no others than *papas* and *caloyers*, without genius, as well as without knowledge, and credulous miniſters of an abſurd credulity. They ſhew, in a ſmall chapel, a vaſe, which they affirm to be a certain oracle, and which the ignorant conſult, in order to know what will be the iſſue of a voyage, or an enterpriſe. The vaſe full of water is a ſign of ſucceſs; if it be almoſt empty, it announces ill fortune; and fables and impoſtures of this ſort have, among the modern Greeks, replaced the ingenious and allegorical fictions of their anceſtors.

Of three ancient towns, *Arcesina*, *Minoë*, and *Ægiale*, deſtroyed even to their very veſtiges,

veſtiges, ſince their ſite is doubtful, there remains only a little town, or village, built on an eminence; and monaſteries, where miracles are the occupation and the principal revenue of the monks or caloyers who inhabit them.

High mountains, naked and ſteep rocks, occupy ſome points of the iſland. In other parts, plains and vallies are the domain of a brilliant fertility. The abundance of its wines, oil, corn, and fruits, was renowned; it ſtill ſubſiſts, although leſs rich, becauſe, far from being ſeconded, it has to ſurmount the obſtacles and difficulties of a bad adminiſtration. A few diſtricts are ſtill well cultivated, and yield rich harveſts; olive-trees there furniſh a tolerably large quantity of oil, in proportion to the extent of the territory; figs are there good and very common, and the wine is ſtill of a very good quality. That ſpecies of large grape with oval ſeeds, and a ſucculent and perfumed pulp, which the preſent Greeks call *ox-eye*, and we *raiſin d'ALEXANDRIE*, there becomes of a conſiderable ſize, and very delicious.

If agriculture has almoſt preſerved its ancient proſperity, the arts are there extinct, as well as the ſciences which accompany and direct them. At AMORGOS are no longer fabricated

bricated thoſe rich ſtuffs, which, under the name of *amorgis*, were in great requeſt, both on account of the fineneſs of their tiſſue, and of the beauty of the colour with which they were dyed. The inhabitants, nevertheleſs, ſtill apply themſelves to dyeing; and they know how to give to their linen-cloths a red colour with archil, a ſpecies of lichen, which is called by the French, in trade, *orſeille d'herbe ou d'Afrique**. This not only clothes the rocks of Amorgos, but it grows alſo on thoſe of ſeveral other iſlands of the Archipelago, and particularly in that of Argentiera, of Tino, and of Policandro. But the Greeks of the greater part of thoſe iſlands were not acquainted with the property of this archil, which they conſidered as a uſeleſs moſs, of whoſe name even they were ignorant. It was not till 1776, or 1777, that they began to know that it was of ſome value; and they learnt this from the Engliſh, who came to purchaſe it, and ſhip it on board ſmall veſſels. The latter paid for it from ſix to thirteen parats the ocque, that is, from three to ſix *ſous* the

* *Lichen Græcus, Polypoïdes, tinctorius, ſaxatilis*, Tourn. cor. xl.; and *fucus verrucoſus tinctorius*. Inſtit. Rei. Herb. *Lichen roccella*. Linn.

pound.

pound. When I was in thoſe iſlands, in 1799, archil ſtill paſſed there by no other name than that of *Engliſhman's graſs*.

Thus it is that people, whoſe inſtitutions are directed towards trade and manufactures, learn to avail themſelves of every reſource, and exerciſe their induſtrious activity on productions which others diſdain; thus it is that, in the greateſt things, as well as in thoſe which are the moſt trifling in appearance, the Engliſh nation has almoſt always preceded every other in point of diſcoveries, and does not conſider as unworthy of its reſearches and ſpeculations, objects which ſeem the moſt minute, provided they can be turned to the benefit of traffic and of the uſeful arts. I have always been ſtruck by the manner in which the French carried on trade in the LEVANT. Not but that it was rich and flouriſhing; yet they proceeded only on a large ſcale; they neglected ſmaller matters in a country where the diviſion of the ſoil commands them, and where they may be multiplied with conſiderable advantage; and it cannot be doubted, that a junction of ſeveral ſmall branches of traffic, each of which, in particular, appears of little importance, may, in its turn, form a maſs of produce very intereſting to commerce and induſtry

duſtry. Theſe reflections, to which I ſhall give greater ſcope in the ſequel of this work, naturally preſent themſelves, when we have ſeen the French, whoſe trade to the LEVANT was very anciently eſtabliſhed; who there obtained a very great preponderancy, and held it almoſt entirely in their own hands; whoſe agents were ſpread, for a time, over all its iſlands which afforded any intereſt, whether from their commerce, or from the intercourſe with the ſhipping which touched there; when we have, I ſay, ſeen the French, enjoying in the Turkiſh empire an aſcendency which other nations were far from attaining, not availing themſelves of ſo advantageous a poſition, neglecting eaſy means of increaſing their commercial riches, and ſuffering foreigners to get poſſeſſion of them, and to derive a conſiderable profit from what they either did not know, or diſdained.

The ſame Engliſh veſſels which came to turn to account the productions of the rocks of the ſmall iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, alſo took in ſquills, or ſea-onions *, which grow there in abundance, on the mountains and between the rocks. While augmenting their

* *Scuilla maritima.* LINN.

own

own commerce, they thus furniſhed to the pooreſt claſs of thoſe iſlands, which there, as every where, are numerous, new means of exiſtence, by the ſearch, far from laborious, of archil and ſquills.

The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO call this latter plant *kourvara-ſkilla*, ball ſquill; *kourvara* ſignifying properly a ball of thread. They alſo give the name of *ſkilla* to a plant of another genus, and which is an *orchis* or *ſatyrion* *. But, in order to diſtinguiſh it from the real ſquill, theſe iſlanders call it *orchida-ſkilla*, ſquill with teſticles, on account of the form of its fleſhy and oblong bulbs, ſomewhat ſimilar to the teſticles of ſheep. In the ARCHIPELAGO, they are reckoned to be very ſerviceable for the cure of tetters. I myſelf have ſeen ſome very good effects from them, when that diſorder did not ariſe from a blood too much vitiated. The whole preparation conſiſts in dividing, with a knife, one of theſe bulbs in the middle, and in making inciſions in its fleſh, in order that the juice may flow from it more eaſily. The tetters are rubbed with this repeatedly. This very ſimple medicament makes them diſappear when they are

* *Satyrium orchioïdes.* LINN.

recent,

recent, and cleanſes and ſoftens very much the more inveterate and of longer ſtanding. But, in countries where ſuperſtition is always by the ſide of reality, people are not contented with properties confirmed by reaſon and experience, but ſeek imaginary ones. To ſatyrion is attributed the virtue of preſerving the teeth white and ſound for a length of time, not by making uſe of ſome of the parts of that plant for the purpoſe of rubbing or waſhing the teeth; but if any one meet with a young ſhoot of ſatyrion, at the moment when it is beginning to appear above ground, he muſt proſtrate himſelf, and bite, as hard as he can, this ſprouting ſtem, which is then white, with a few black ſpecks.

A multitude of ſimilar practices are to be remarked among the modern Greeks. Theſe are not, as in countries where inſtruction and knowledge are more diffuſed, the ridiculous appendage of the ignorant claſs. Opulence, which procures elſewhere the advantages of a good education, and repels fooliſh credulity, makes, in GREECE, no difference on this ſubject between the rich man and him who lives in a ſtate of wretchedneſs. They all are given up to the ſame errors, to the ſame practices of ſuperſtitious credulity, to the ſame

confidence in ignorance, and in traditions equally abſurd and whimſical; ſo that theſe prejudices are common to all claſſes, and ſenſeleſs creeds are there generally accredited, and, if I may ſo expreſs myſelf, are national.

Of theſe I ſhall frequently have occaſion to mention inſtances which deſerve to be collected as materials for the hiſtory of the human mind, and, in particular, for that of a people who were at all times one of the moſt ſuperſtitious in the world, and whom ſlavery, and a forgetfulneſs of the ſciences and fine arts, have involved in all the errors which ignorance can introduce into minds long ſince diſpoſed to welcome and preſerve them.

Among the allurements of AMORGOS, we muſt place in the firſt rank the mildneſs and affability of its inhabitants, and the beauty of the women, who, by their charms, remind us that we are in countries, where, from time immemorial, the moſt amiable ſex were in poſſeſſion of forms the moſt noble and moſt elegant, of the bloom of brilliant colour, of an outline the moſt graceful, of minute attractions the moſt faſcinating. But theſe handſome women clothe themſelves with ſtrange dreſſes, to which European eyes are not eaſily reconciled; and they muſt needs be

truly

truly beautiful to appear ſo under ſuch a garb. It bears much reſemblance to the dreſs of the women of NILO and ARGENTIERA, of which I give the figure (*Plate VII.*); with this difference—the women of AMORGOS paſs a ſhawl, or large yellow handkerchief, made of fine wool, over their forehead and the lower part of their face, twiſt it round their head in the form of a turban, tie it behind, and ſuffer a long end of it to hang down their back.

Among the people of the EAST, faſhions are not, as in our weſtern countries, ephemeral fancies, bantlings of inſtability and capricious luxury; they are cuſtoms laſting and ancient, whoſe origin is loſt in the obſcurity of ages, and which will ſtill have a long continuance. If, as cannot be doubted, the uſages of nations are an image of their character, we ſhall conceive a high opinion of the conſtancy of the women of AMORGOS, and of all thoſe of the other parts of GREECE, who, like them, attached to ancient habits, and ſtrangers to the verſatility of fancies, have preſerved their dreſs, however whimſical, however inconvenient even it may appear, when one is not accuſtomed to ſee it or wear it. In fact, it is among theſe women, ſo favoured by

Nature, but at the ſame time ſo indifferent as to procuring themſelves garments more ſuitable to their ſhape, and better calculated for the more advantageous diſplay of their charms, that it is common to meet with the valuable union of beauty, glowing affection, and conſtancy.

South of the Iſland of AMORGOS, and at the diſtance of about three leagues, is ſeen an uninhabited iſlet, which is called *AMORGO-POULO*, or LITTLE AMORGO.

Between the ſame iſland and that of NAXIA, that is, to the weſt of the former, are other iſlets equally uncultivated and uninhabited, ſome of which, covered with lentiſks *, ſmall cypreſs-leaved cedars †, and other wild plants, ſerve for the feeding of the flocks which are kept on them; while the others, which conſiſt of ſteep maſſes of rocks deſtitute of all verdure, are the abode of a multitude of birds of prey.

* *Lentiſcus vulgaris.* TOURN.

† *Cedrus baccifera, folio cupreſſi, major, fructu flaveſcente.* TOURN.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XII.

Nanfio.—*Partridges.*—Nio.—*Feſtival of* St. Gregory.—*Cock-roaches.*—*Day reputed unlucky among the Greeks.*—*Women of* Nio.—*Hair of the Greek Women.*—*Dreſſes of the Women of* Nio, *and of ſome other iſlands of the* Archipelago.—*Women of* Santorin.—*Cotton manufactures.*—*Iſland of* Santorin.—Kammeni.—*Account of a ſudden appearance of a new iſland in* 1707.—*Its preſent ſtate.*—*Superſtitious idea conceived of it by the Greeks.*—*Pumice-ſtones.*—*Iſlands of the Gulf of* Santorin.—*A bank or ledge appearing likely to form, ere long, another iſland.*—*Earthquakes.*—*Iſland of* Santorin.—*Nature of its ſoil, its productions.*—Thera.—Pyrgos.—San Nicolo.—Scaro.—*Greeks of* Santorin.—*Their efforts for preventing, in their iſland, the working of pozzolana.*—Chriſtiana.

THE channel formed by the Iſlands of STAMPALIA and AMORGOS extends between

two others, equally inconſiderable, *Nanfio* and *Nio*. The former, ſituated to the ſouth-weſt of Stampalia, is little more than ſeven leagues in circuit. Its firſt name was *Membliaros*; which it derived from *Membliares*, the Phœnician, who, when his relation Cadmus went in queſt of Europa, accompanied him, and ſettled in the neighbouring Iſland of *Thera*. It has ſince been named *Anaphe*, a Phœnician word, which, according to Bochart, ſignifies ſhaded and dark, an epithet which this iſland had obtained from its gloomy and thick foreſts. However, the moſt common opinion is, that it owes this name of *Anaphe* to the Greek word *phaino*, which means *to appear*, from the thunder having on a ſudden occaſioned it to riſe from the bottom of the waters, in order to receive the fleet of the Argonauts on its return from Colchis, when aſſailed by a furious tempeſt. This fable of antiquity is the hiſtory of the formation of Nanfio, which a volcano cauſed to appear ſuddenly above the ſea, in the midſt of a violent agitation of the atmoſphere and of the waves, as has happened to ſome other iſlands of the Archipelago.

In memory of this event was built a temple, which was conſecrated to Apollo *Ægletes*,

or

or dazzling with light. Mirth, wine, and pleaſantry, preſided at the feſtivals which were here celebrated. Slight veſtiges of this temple are ſtill to be found on the place which it occupied, in the ſouth part of the iſland; and the marble of which it was conſtructed was taken from a very ſteep rock, of a frightful aſpect, on whoſe ſummit is ſeen a chapel, dedicated to *Our Lady of the Reed*; in modern Greek, *Panagia Kalamotiſa*.

The tufted foreſts, which are ſaid to have darkened the ſurface of the iſland, have diſappeared; and there are now to be found only ſome ſcattered ſhrubs. Its mountains are barren and naked, and its plains afford not vegetation much more brilliant. Agriculture there languiſhes; and, notwithſtanding the goodneſs of the ſoil, barley is almoſt the only plant which there produces any harveſt. Some ſmall plantations of vines yield good wine, and honey is common. TOURNEFORT relates, that partridges multiplied there ſo prodigiouſly, that, in order to preſerve the corn, the inhabitants, by direction of the magiſtrates, collect all the eggs that can be found about the Eaſter holidays, and which commonly amount to upwards of ten or twelve thouſand; theſe are made into all

ſorts of ſauces, and eſpecially into omelets: "however, notwithſtanding this precaution," ſays TOURNEFORT, "we put up covies of partridges at every ſtep*." I had not an opportunity of aſcertaining whether this great quantity of partridges exiſt at NANFIO at the preſent day. They are, in general, very common in the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO; but, however, not ſo much ſo as they were in the laſt-mentioned iſle, in the time of TOURNEFORT.

The partridges of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO are of the red ſpecies†: they there live on the mountains and in the midſt of the buſhes; they are ſometimes ſeen perched on trees, which is never the caſe with gray partridges. The ſportſmen of the LEVANT have obſerved that theſe birds, when they run, always go up hill. They are the moſt common game in thoſe countries, where they are ſold at a very low price; their fleſh is more ſavoury than that of the gray partridges.

A ſmall town, built to the ſouth, contains the whole population of NANFIO; every

* *Relation d'un Voyage du Levant*, vol. i. 4to. page 276.

† *Perdrix rouge.* BUFFON, Hiſt. Nat. des Oiſeaux, et planche enluminée, No. 150.—*Tetrao rufus.* Var. 6. LINN.

thing

thing beſpeaks the wretchedneſs ſpread over the territory of the iſland. Here is no harbour; but, in front of the town, ſhips find a very good roadſtead, protected by a ſmall ſhoal, which is called *Nanfio-Poulo*, Little Nanfio.

The Iſle of Nio, more fertile, and at the ſame time more celebrated, lies to the weſt of Nanfio, and to the ſouth of Amorgos. It is in the harbour of this iſland, known by the ancients under the name of *Ios*, becauſe it was peopled by Ionians, that Homer expired, in his voyage from Samos to Athens. The inhabitants, in honour of him, erected a tomb, of which there are no longer any veſtiges, in like manner as the modern Greeks have loſt all remembrance of the honourable interment which their anceſtors beſtowed on the moſt famous poet of antiquity.

The preſent town, which bears the ſame name as the iſland, is built on an eminence, and, probably, on the ſpot which was occupied by the ancient city. Nothing remarkable is there to be found, unleſs it be the hoſpitable character of thoſe who reſide there; they ſhew to ſtrangers great attention, and the moſt obliging behaviour; and, on quitting them, every one is impreſſed with the beſt

beſt opinion of their generous affability*. The women, on their part, likewiſe embelliſh this abode by their charms, their kindneſs, and their virtues.

The French had a conſul in this place; but, ſince the ſyſtem has prevailed of uniting, or, to ſpeak more correctly, of limiting our commerce to the large ſea-ports, veſſels have ceaſed to frequent the excellent harbour of NIO, and the government to maintain there a ſuperintendant, whoſe preſence became uſeleſs in the plan which had been formed, and which was far from being the moſt advantageous for commerce.

The interior of the iſland, leſs hilly than the ſoil of the greater part of thoſe of which I have ſpoken, produces abundance of wheat, part of which the inhabitants export for ſale. Cupidity, want of foreſight, the eager deſire of enjoyment, more conſpicuous among men

* TOURNEFORT *(Voyage au Levant)* has deſcribed the Niots as thieves and robbers; but either this author was not acquainted with them, or they have greatly changed, ſince the period of his Travels. It is probable that then there were at *Nio* ſome remains of the colony which a Duke of *Naxia*, to whom the iſland belonged, introduced there, and which was compoſed of Albanians, a tribe of Greeks, warlike, reſtleſs, and inclined to robbery.

who

who live in oppreſſion and misfortune, and who have only to look forward to a futurity that is doubtful, have induced the inhabitants to fell the fine woods which covered ſome diſtricts; ſo that Nio, after having ſupplied the neighbouring iſlands, is at preſent almoſt entirely deſtitute. But the mildneſs of the climate renders not this ſcarcity of wood diſtreſſing; the inhabitants never have occaſion to ſeek the fire-ſide, and the lentiſks, and other ſhrubs which grow there, ſuffice for the wants of cookery. On the whole, Nio is a very agreeable and quiet place of reſidence.

I happened to be there on the day when the Greeks celebrate, in the ſpring, the feſtival of St. Gregory, a feſtival that they conſecrate, in a manner, to cock-roaches, diſguſting and troubleſome inſects, which are very common in theſe countries during the ſummer *. The day before, every family ought to have laid in their ſtock of water and herbs; were any to be brought in on that day, it would be imagined that the houſe would be filled with cock-roaches. This pre-

* *Blatta Orientalis*, Linn. The modern Greeks call it *katſarida*.

caution

caution is, nevertheleſs, inſufficient for conjuring away thoſe inſects: every head of a family muſt procure two or three of them, which he ſhuts up in a hollow reed, and throws them into the ſea, at the ſame time uttering a thouſand curſes. Although long experience has demonſtrated the inefficacy of this ceremony and of theſe imprecations, there is not a ſingle Greek of NIO, and of ſeveral other iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, who annually, on ſuch a day, does not obſerve them ſcrupulouſly, though not a year paſſes without their houſes being infeſted with cock-roaches in the ſummer: ſo blind is ſuperſtition, when time and ignorance have allowed it to take deep root!

Another precaution full as uſeleſs, but which is not, on that account, the leſs obſerved by the Greeks of the ſame iſlands, is that by which they every year note the day when the feſtival of ST. JOHN the Baptiſt falls. They are particularly careful not to undertake any thing the ſame day of the week, during the whole year, becauſe they are perſuaded that a work, a voyage, any buſineſs whatever, begun at this period, would infallibly miſcarry, or have a very unfortunate iſſue.

The

The dreſs of the women of NIO is much the ſame as that of the women of AMORGOS, and of moſt of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO. But at NIO, they do not, as at AMORGOS, conceal part of their handſome face, by an intruſive piece of cloth: their features are entirely expoſed to view, their forehead is uncovered, and the ſhawl, with which their head is enveloped, exhibits a ſort of creſcent of beautiful black hair, gloſſy as jet, and ſoft as ſilk.

I ſhall remark, on this occaſion, that the ſize, and conſequently the coarſeneſs of the hair, appears to depend on the ſeverity of the climate. Negroes have wool, and I have never ſeen any where hair ſo fine as on the head of the greater part of the women of the EAST.

We might make an exception againſt the garments of the women of NIO, and of the other iſlands where they are accuſtomed to wear any of the ſame deſcription, for not reaching ſufficiently low, and being repugnant to decency. Their petticoat, in fact, comes only to the knees; but in this defect of length, which, added to the forms of the other parts of the dreſs, has ſomething whimſical and groteſque, there is nothing immodeſt.

deſt. If, in our country, the idea of impropriety and effrontery accompanies a woman whoſe legs are not covered, at leaſt in a great meaſure, by long garments, it is that the legs, although dreſſed, are, with our women, immediately connected with parts which are not, and which decency ſtrictly conceals from view. But what it reproves among us, cannot alarm in the EAST. There, all the women are completely clothed; they all wear drawers, which permit them not to embarraſs their legs by long petticoats.

The Turkiſh women, and the female Greeks of the large towns, make uſe of long and ample drawers, which come down to their heels; they even wear them double: the under pair is of linen or cotton, and that which appears is of linen or ſilk. The drawers of the women of the ARCHIPELAGO are plain, ſhort, and, moſt commonly, made of cotton. Like thoſe of the Turkiſh women, and rich female inhabitants of the cities and towns, they are in like manner confined, above the hips, by a girdle of knit ſilk or cotton, paſſed through a nooſe, and faſtened in front by a long running knot: they are alſo very ample; but they do not reach beyond the knee, under which they are confined with ſtrings that are covered

covered by the ſtockings. The women are in the habit of tying theſe ſtrings ſo tight, at the top of the calf of the leg, that their impreſſion becomes ſufficiently deep and broad to admit the finger. This cuſtom of clothing themſelves more completely has, methinks, great advantages for the health of the women: adopted by ours, it would ſave them from a crowd of diſorders, which may very probably have no other cauſe than their having neglected it, and by this, decency would, doubtleſs, be no loſer.

The garments of the women of the Iſland of SANTORIN have more regularity, and are longer, than thoſe of which I have juſt ſpoken; their head is covered by a rolled ſhawl, twiſted in the form of a turban, and which, moſt commonly, paſſes under the chin. Their principal occupation is to ſpin cotton, which grows very well in that country, and ſerves for the manufacture of cloths, known in the LEVANT by the names of dimities and *eſcamites*, an important branch of induſtry, and the principal trade of that famous iſland.

It is well known that SANTORIN, formerly *THERA*, and more anciently *CALLISTA*, a word which ſignifies the *Handſome*, has experienced ſingular changes from the effect of ſubterra-

neous fires. Emerged from the boſom of the ſea, it was afterwards partly ſwallowed up in the year 237 before the Chriſtian era, and ſeparated from *Therasia*, a ſmall iſland at this day called *Aspronisi*. The ſpace contained between thoſe two iſlands, and at preſent filled by the ſea, made, according to the well-founded opinion of a judicious obſerver*, a part of Thera, or of the large iſland, which, at the time of this revolution, aſſumed the form of a creſcent. Indeed, the coaſt of that gulf, compoſed of ſteep rocks, black, calcined, and towering upwards of three hundred feet above the level of the ſea, appears to be the edge of an enormous crater, the bottom of which has never been fathomed.

Several other revolutions happened ſucceſſively in the ſame place; and the terrifying ſcenes of the great convulſions of Nature have been renewed there repeatedly: an earthquake was felt forty years after the Iſlands of Thera and Therasia were ſeparated. The waters boiled up, and a new iſland roſe above the ſea, and all at once

* M. De Choiseul-Gouffier, *Voyage Pittoreſque de Grèce*, vol. i. pages 322 and 323.

preſented

preſented itſelf to the eyes of aſtoniſhed navigators*. This little iſland was called *Kiera*, ſacred, no doubt, on account of its origin, which bordered on a prodigy, and which occaſioned it to be conſecrated to the god of hell. The nature of the calcined ſubſtances of which it is formed has ſince obtained it the name of *Kammeni*, or the *Burnt Iſland*.

Subterraneous commotions, convulſions, and other phenomena, terrified the men of theſe countries, at different times, and produced on the land changes more or leſs conſiderable, till the year 1743, when another iſland ſuddenly appeared above the ſurface of the waters. In order to diſtinguiſh it from the former, which is the larger, the Greeks have named it *Micri Kammeni*, or the *Little Burnt Iſland*.

Laſtly, at the beginning of the century which has juſt elapſed, a new iſlet appeared between the Great and the Little Kammeni, about a league from Santorin. It was on the 23rd of May, 1707, at break of day, that were perceived the commencements of

* Justin. book xxx. chap. iv. *note*, that Pliny (Hiſt. Nat. lib. ii. cap. lxxxvii.) ſays, improperly, that this event took place one hundred and thirty years after that which gave birth to the Iſle of *Therafia*.

this other production of the ſubterraneous fires which burn in theſe parts. On the 18th of the ſame month, there had been felt at SANTORIN two ſlight ſhocks of an earthquake. No great attention was paid to them at the time; but, in the ſequel, there was reaſon to ſuppoſe that, at that moment, the new iſlet was beginning to detach itſelf from the bottom of the ſea, and to riſe towards its ſurface. Be this as it may, ſome Greeks belonging to SANTORIN having, very early in the morning, ſeen the firſt points of the growing iſland, imagined that theſe might be the remains of ſome ſhipwreck, which the ſea had brought during the night. In hopes of being the firſt to avail themſelves of them, they haſtened to reach them; but, no ſooner had they diſcovered that, in lieu of pieces of a floating wreck, theſe were black and calcined rocks, than they returned, quite frightened, publiſhing every where what they had juſt ſeen.

The fright was general in the whole Iſland of SANTORIN; it was well known there that theſe ſudden appearances of new lands had always been attended by great diſaſters. Nevertheleſs, two or three days having paſſed without any thing fatal happening, ſome of the

the inhabitants of SANTORIN came to a reſolution of making obſervations on the very ſpot. Having landed, curioſity induced them to proceed from rock to rock; they found every where a ſort of white ſtone which might be cut like bread, and which ſo well imitated it in figure, colour, and conſiſtency, that, with the exception of the taſte, it might have been taken for real wheaten bread. What pleaſed them and aſtoniſhed them more, was a quantity of freſh oyſters adhering to the rocks, a circumſtance very uncommon at SANTORIN. While theſe Greeks were amuſing themſelves with eating the oyſters, they all at once felt the rocks move, and the ground tremble under their feet; terror ſoon made them abandon their repaſt, in order to jump into their boat, and row away as hard as they could pull. This ſhock was a motion of the iſland, which was increaſing, and which, at that moment, viſibly roſe, having, in a very few days, gained near twenty feet in height, and twice as much in breadth.

As this motion, by which the new iſland was daily becoming higher and broader, was not always equal, accordingly it did not increaſe every day equally on all ſides. It even frequently happened that it fell and diminiſhed

in one place, while it roſe and ſpread in another. One day, in particular, a rock very remarkable from its ſize and figure, having iſſued from the ſea, forty or fifty paces from the middle of the iſland, ſunk at the expiration of four days into the water, and appeared no more. This was not the caſe with ſome other rocks which, after having made their appearance, and concealed themſelves at various times, at length re-appeared and remained fixed. Theſe different commotions violently ſhook the Little KAMMENI, and, on its ſummit, was remarked a long fiſſure, which had not been ſeen there before. During this time, the ſea of the gulf ſeveral times changed its colour; it firſt became of a dazzling green, then of a reddiſh hue, and at laſt of a pale yellow, and conſtantly emitted a great ſtench.

On the 16th of July, ſmoke was ſeen, for the firſt time, to iſſue, not from the part of the iſland that appeared, but from a chain of black rocks, which roſe all on a ſudden ſixty yards from that ſpot, and from a part of the ſea where no bottom had been found; this, for ſome time, formed as it were two ſeparate iſlands, one of which was called the *White Iſland*, and the other, the *Black Iſland*, on account of their different colour; but which

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ere long were again united to each other, yet in ſuch a manner that thoſe black rocks which laſt ſprang up became the centre of the whole iſland. The ſmoke which iſſued from the chain of black rocks was thick and whitiſh, like that which iſſues from ſeveral lime-kilns thrown into one. The wind carried it over one of the habitations ſituated at the extremity of the gulf, and it did not there occaſion much inconvenience: its ſmell too was not particularly obnoxious.

In the night between the 19th and 20th, flames of fire were ſeen to riſe from the middle of this ſmoke, which cauſed the inhabitants of SANTORIN great apprehenſion. This fire, nevertheleſs, was alſo little to be feared, ſince it iſſued only from a ſingle point of the Black Iſland, and did not appear at all during the day.

Neither fire nor ſmoke was ever ſeen on the White Iſland; yet, notwithſtanding, it continued conſtantly to grow larger; but the Black Iſland increaſed far more quickly. Every day were ſeen to ariſe big rocks, which one while rendered it longer, another while broader; and this in ſo perceptible a manner, that it was noticed from one moment to another. Sometimes theſe rocks were joined to

the iſland, ſometimes they were very remote from it; ſo that in leſs than a month were reckoned as many as four little black iſlands, which, in four days, were united to each other, and then formed but one. It was likewiſe remarked that the ſmoke had greatly increaſed, and that, no wind blowing at the time, it aſcended ſo high that it was ſeen from CANDIA, from NAXIA, and from other diſtant iſlands. During the night, this ſmoke always appeared fiery to the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and the ſea was covered with a reddiſh ſubſtance or froth in ſome places, and yellowiſh in others. So great a degree of putrefaction ſpread through all SANTORIN, that the inhabitants were obliged to burn perfumes, and to kindle fires in the ſtreets. This infection laſted only a day and a half. A very freſh ſouth-weſt wind diſpelled it; but in driving away one evil, it introduced another. It carried this burning ſmoke over a great part of the beſt vineyards of SANTORIN, the grapes of which were almoſt ripe, and which, in one night, were all ſcorched. It was likewiſe remarked, that wherever this ſmoke was carried, it blackened ſilver and copper, and occaſioned the inhabitants violent head-aches, accompanied by

ſtrong

ſtrong nauſea. At that time, the White Iſland ſettled and ſunk all at once upwards of ten feet.

On the 31ſt of July, it was diſcovered that the ſea caſt forth ſmoke and boiled up in two places, the one at thirty, and the other at ſixty yards from the Black Iſland. In theſe two ſpaces, each of which formed a perfect circle, the water appeared like oil on the fire. This laſted upwards of a month, during which were found a great many dead fiſhes.

The following night was heard a hollow noiſe, like the report of ſeveral cannon fired at a diſtance; and almoſt immediately iſſued from the middle of the crater two long ſheets of fire, which aſcended very high, and were directly extinguiſhed.

On the 1ſt of Auguſt, the ſame hollow noiſe was heard repeatedly. It was followed by a ſmoke, not white as before, but of a bluiſh black, and which, notwithſtanding a very freſh northerly wind, roſe in the form of a pillar to a prodigious elevation.

On the 7th of Auguſt, the noiſe which was heard was no longer ſo hollow: it was ſimilar to that of ſeveral large heaps of ſtones falling all at once into a deep well. The extremities of the iſland were thought to be in continual

motion, and the rocks which formed them coming and going, diſappearing and then re-appearing. This noiſe, after having laſted ſeveral days, changed into another conſiderably louder. It reſembled thunder in ſuch a manner, that, when it really thundered, which happened three or four times, there was no great difference between the one and the other.

On the 21ſt of Auguſt, the fire and ſmoke diminiſhed conſiderably. There even appeared but very little during the night; but, at break of day, they reſumed more ſtrength than they had before poſſeſſed. The ſmoke was red and very thick, and the fire which iſſued was ſo fierce, that the ſea round the Black Iſland ſmoked and boiled up in a ſurpriſing manner.

On the morning of the 22d, the iſland was become much higher than it was the day before. A chain of rocks, of nearly fifty feet, had greatly increaſed its breadth. The ſea was again covered with that reddiſh foam already mentioned, which emitted every where an intolerable ſtench.

On the 5th of September, the fire opened itſelf a paſſage at the extremity of the Black Iſland, at the ſame time inclining towards

THERASIA. The fire iſſued thence for ſome days only, during which leſs came out of the great crater.

Had the inquietude, with which every one was affected night and day, then allowed of the inhabitants of SANTORIN being alive to any diverſion, the ſight which they then enjoyed would have been entertaining. Thrice there aroſe from the great crater, as it were, three of the largeſt ſky-rockets of a fire the moſt brilliant and the moſt beautiful. On the following nights it was quite another thing. After the uſual reports of the ſubterraneous thunder, all at once were ſeen going off, as it were, long ſheaves ſparkling with a million of lights, which, following each other, aſcended to a very great height, then fell again in ſhowers of ſtars on the iſland, which thence appeared quite illuminated. This ſpectacle was a little diſturbed by a new phenomenon. From the middle of theſe ſky-rockets, there became detached a very long lance of fire, which, after having remained ſome time motionleſs over the caſtle of SCARO, was loſt in the clouds.

On the 9th of September, the two iſlands, the White Iſland and the Black one, by dint of increaſing each in breadth, began to meet and

and to form but one body. After this junction, the extremity of the iſland to the ſouth-weſt increaſed no more either in length or height, whereas the other extremity to the weſt did not ceaſe to lengthen very perceptibly.

Of all the openings, there were now but four which emitted any fire. Sometimes the ſmoke iſſued with impetuoſity from all together, ſometimes only from one or two; one while with noiſe, another without, but almoſt always with a whiſtling, which might have been taken for the various ſounds of the pipes of an organ, and ſometimes for the howling of wild beaſts.

On the 12th of September, the ſubterraneous noiſe, which naturally ſeemed likely to be no longer ſo violent, having to ſpread between four openings, was never ſo frightful, nor ſo frequent as on that day and the following. The loud and repeated claps, ſimilar to the general diſcharge of a numerous and heavy train of artillery, were heard ten or twelve times in the courſe of twenty-four hours; and, a moment after, there iſſued from the great crater ſtones of an enormous ſize, quite red hot, which were thrown to a great diſtance, and loſt in the ſea. Theſe loud claps

were

were always accompanied by a thick ſmoke, which flew up into the air in undulating figures, and which, when it diſperſed, ſpread every where big clouds of aſhes, ſome of which were carried in eddies as far as ANASI, an iſland twenty-five miles diſtant from SANTORIN. Theſe aſhes appeared white on the Black Iſland, and almoſt black on the White one; they had the figure and the grain of fine powder; but, thrown into the fire, they produced only a few ſlight crepitations, without emitting the ſmalleſt flame.

On the 18th of September, there was at SANTORIN an earthquake which occaſioned no damage. The iſland was conſiderably increaſed by it, as well as the fire and ſmoke, which, on that day and the following night, opened to themſelves new paſſages. Till then, ſo many fires together had not been ſeen, nor had ſuch loud reports been heard: their violence was ſo extraordinary, that the houſes of SCARO were ſhaken by it. Through thick volumes of ſmoke, which appeared like a mountain, was heard the loud noiſe of an infinite number of huge ſtones, which whizzed in the air like large cannon-balls, and fell afterwards on the iſland and into the ſea, with a craſh which made all who heard it ſhudder.

The

The Little KAMMENI was ſeveral times covered with theſe burning ſtones, which rendered it quite reſplendent.

On the 21ſt of September, the little KAMMENI being thus quite in a blaze, after one of thoſe furious ſhocks juſt mentioned, there thence aroſe three large flaſhes of lightning, which, in the twinkling of an eye, traverſed all the horizon of the ſea. At the ſame inſtant, there occurred ſo great a ſhaking of the whole new iſland, that the half of its great crater fell in, and there were huge burning ſtones, of a prodigious maſs, which were driven to the diſtance of upwards of two miles. It was thought that this violent and laſt effort had at length exhauſted the mine. Four days of calm and tranquillity, during which was ſeen no appearance of fire and ſmoke, contributed not a little to ſtrengthen this idea; but the inhabitants had not, as they had imagined, as yet witneſſed the moſt alarming period.

On the 24th of September, the fire reſumed all its ſtrength, and the iſland became more formidable than ever. Among the claps, almoſt continual, and which were ſo violent that two perſons, ſpeaking to each other, could with difficulty make themſelves heard, there ſuddenly

ſuddenly occurred one ſo dreadful, that it made every body run to the churches. The big rock, on which SCARO is built, tottered, and all the doors of the houſes were forcibly thrown open.

Every thing continued in the ſame ſtate during the months of October, November, and December 1707, and January 1708. Not a day paſſed without the great crater making an exploſion at leaſt once or twice, and moſt frequently five or ſix times.

On the 10th of February 1708, about eight o'clock in the morning, there was at SANTORIN a rather violent ſhock of an earthquake. In the courſe of the night, there had been one much ſlighter, which induced the opinion, from the experience of the paſt, that the volcano was again preparing ſome terrible ſcene. It was not long in coming. Fire, flame, ſmoke, reports the moſt terrific, all was horrible. Large rocks of a frightful maſs, which till then had appeared only even with the water's edge, roſe very high; and the boiling up of the ſea increaſed to ſuch an exceſs, that although the ſpectators were accuſtomed to all this uproar, there was no one who was not ſtruck with horror. The ſubterraneous roarings no longer came by inter-

vals; they laſted day and night without intermiſſion. The great crater burſt even five or ſix times in a quarter of an hour, and gave reports which, from their repetition, from the quantity and the bigneſs of the ſtones that flew about, from the ſhaking of the houſes, and from the great fire that appeared in open day, which had not yet been ſeen, ſurpaſſed every thing that had preceded.

The 15th of April was remarkable, among all the other days, from the number and the fury of thoſe terrible ſhocks; ſo that, for a long time, ſeeing nothing but fire, fiery ſmoke, and large pieces of rock, which filled the air, all the inhabitants of SANTORIN thought that it was all over, and that the iſland was blown up. Yet no ſuch thing had occurred, and there was but the half of the circumference of the great crater which had fallen in once more, and which, in an inſtant, again became higher than it was, by the heap of aſhes and big ſtones by which it was repaired.

From that day till the 23d of May, which was the anniverſary of the birth of the iſland, every thing continued nearly on the ſame footing. What was particularly remarked, was, that the iſland conſtantly increaſed in height, and ſcarcely increaſed any more in

breadth. The great opening or large crater roſe very high; and from the melted ſubſtances which cemented its fabric, was gradually formed, as it were, a great paſty, with a very broad ſlope.

In the ſequel, every thing became ſtill by degrees. The fire and ſmoke diminiſhed, the ſubterraneous thunder became tolerable, and its burſts, though ſtill frequent, were no longer ſo frightful.

On the 15th of July, the day being fine, the ſea calm, and the fire very moderate, ſome perſons belonging to SANTORIN wiſhed to have a near view of the new iſland. They took care to provide themſelves with a boat well caulked, and whoſe ſeams were filled with oakum ſtrongly chinced. They went ſtraight to that ſide of the iſland where the ſea did not boil up, but where it ſmoked very much. Scarcely had the inquiſitive party reached this ſmoke, than they all felt a ſuffocating heat, which affected them. They put their hands into the water, and found it ſcalding; they were as yet, however, only within five hundred yards of the land. There not being a probability of their proceeding farther that way, they turned towards the point moſt diſtant from the great crater, and at which the iſland had

had conſtantly increaſed in length. The fire, which was ſtill there, and the ſea, which boiled up with fury, obliged them to take a long circuit; even yet they felt a violent heat. They landed on the Great KAMMENI, whence they had the convenience of examining, without much danger, all the real length of the iſland, and particularly the ſide which they had not been able to ſee from SCARO. The iſland, with reſpect to its oblong figure, might probably then be two hundred feet in its greateſt height, a mile and upwards in its greateſt breadth, and about five miles in circumference.

After this examination, the obſervers again felt a ſtrong deſire to approach the iſland, and to attempt once more to land there, at the place called, for a long time, the *White Iſland*. For ſeveral months this place had no longer increaſed, and never, during that time, had either fire or ſmoke been remarked. When they were within two hundred yards of it, they perceived that, by dipping the hand into the water, the more they approached, the warmer it became. They hove the lead; all the line, which was ninety-five fathoms long, was employed, without finding any bottom. They were within two hundred yards of the iſland,

iſland, and while they were deliberating whether they ſhould advance farther, or turn back, the great crater began to play with its uſual craſh and impetuoſity. The wind, which was freſh, carried over the boat the thick cloud of aſhes and ſmoke which thence iſſued; the perſons who were in it were quite covered with theſe, which made them think of rowing off very quickly, and alſo very opportunely; for they were ſcarcely a mile and a half from the iſland, before the hurly-burly ſoon recommenced, and the crater threw into the place which they had juſt quitted a quantity of fiery ſtones. On arriving at SANTORIN, it was diſcovered that the great heat of the water had melted almoſt all the pitch from the ſeams of the boat, which began to open on all ſides.

Till the 15th of Auguſt, of the ſame year, 1708, the iſland vomited fire, ſmoke, and burning ſtones, always with a great noiſe, yet leſs than that of the preceding months.

This account of a judicious eye-witneſs, on the ſubject of a very extraordinary event, which happened in our time, has appeared to me too intereſting not to be related almoſt from beginning to end, with the more reaſon, as it is to be found only in a rather ſcarce collection, entitled "*Les Mémoires des Miſſions*

" *de la Compagnie de Jéſus dans le Le-*
" *vant**."

After the author of the account had quitted SANTORIN, the new iſland riſen from the ſea in the gulf, between the Great and the Little KAMMENI, continued for a long time to caſt forth flames, a thick ſmoke, and large maſſes of ſtones. But the exploſions ſucceſſively became leſs frequent and leſs violent; they at length ceaſed, and nothing more was heard but the hollow noiſe of the boiling up of the ſubſtances which the ſubterraneous fires keep in fuſion, at an immenſe depth, in the bowels of the earth.

The volcano is at preſent in a ſtate of inaction, at leaſt externally; the ſmall iſland is quiet, but its aſpect has ſtill ſomething frightful. At a diſtance, it appears quite black; if you approach it, you there find the medley of ſubſtances decompoſed by fire and fallen again confuſedly, after having been driven into the air with a craſh; it is ſurrounded by torrents of ſulphur; every thing there is burnt or calcined; every thing there bears the impreſſion of thoſe terrible conflagrations, with which Nature has burnt the very

* Vol. i. pages 126 and following.

boſom

boſom of the globe; every thing there retraces the preſage of freſh cataſtrophes, of freſh eruptions.

Symptoms ſo frightful, convulſions ſo violent, which nothing can reſiſt, and which mock the power and the precautions of mankind, were, doubtleſs, ſufficient to ſtrike the ſuperſtitious and weak imagination of the Greeks. The new iſland is in their eyes the work of hell; demons have there eſtabliſhed their abode; they there ſet up a dreadful uproar; and, impelled by a diabolical malignity, they make a paſtime of letting go the cables of veſſels which mariners have the temerity to make faſt to it. The Greek biſhop of SANTORIN goes thither ſometimes, to diſplay the power of exorciſm; and though the noiſe does not diſcontinue, and veſſels and boats are as frequently ſet adrift, the prelate enjoys the ſatisfaction of ſeeing his credulous flock thoroughly convinced of the efficacy of his pious ceremonies.

But this uproar, which holy water cannot appeaſe, is owing to the very nature of the new iſland. It is ſometimes the hollow and deep roaring of the volcano, and almoſt always the ſhock of the waves againſt the partitions of cavities entirely formed of calcined and

ſonorous rocks. The piercing cry of mews, gulls, and other birds which there take refuge, on the approach of any new object, are blended with ſounds loud and mournful, becauſe they iſſue from deep caverns; and this diſcordance of grave and ſharp tones forms, indeed, an uproar worthy of hell itſelf, which, nevertheleſs, has no more to do with it than with the cables of the veſſels, that loſe their hold from a cauſe equally ſimple and equally natural. In fact, the prominent points, which preſent greater facility for making faſt to them the moorings, belong to rocks burnt and of no great conſiſtency, which the motion of the veſſel cauſes to break eaſily, as ſoon as ſhe is agitated by the wind or waves.

The new iſland is about a league in circumference. All round, but very cloſe to it, the depth of water is from thirty to thirty-five fathoms: farther off, no bottom is to be found. From the rocks of the iſland is frequently detached a quantity of fragments of pumice-ſtone, which, floating on the ſurface of the ſea, are driven on the coaſts of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where I have ſeen ſeveral of them caſt on ſhore, being ſwept away by the winds. The quantity of theſe light productions of volcanoes, thrown up by the new iſland,

iſland, was ſo conſiderable during the beginning of its aſtoniſhing appearance, that the ſea of the ARCHIPELAGO was covered with them, and ſeveral harbours were choked up up to ſuch a degree, that no veſſel, however ſmall, could get out, unleſs a paſſage were cleared for her by means of poles*.

Mould, or vegetable earth, does not yet cover, in any place, a calcined ſoil, whoſe ſuperficies has been expoſed to the air and the rains only for too ſhort a time paſt to be decompoſed by theſe agents, ſo active, but as ſlow as thoſe of its formation were quick and impetuous. The Little KAMMENI, where are ſeen ſix craters by which the volcano vomited forth the ſubſtances that compoſe it, is equally naked and barren; but the Great KAMMENI, more ancient, is covered with a thin ſtratum of a duſt, which allows a few herbs to grow in it. The Iſle of *ASPRONISI*, the *THERASIA* of the ancients, is clothed with verdure, and on it are ſeen a few trees thinly ſcattered.

In theſe ſeas, the theatre of the moſt ſurpriſing operations of Nature, we muſt expect

* See THEVENOT, *Relation d'un Voyage au Levant*, 4to. chap. lxviii. page 294.

new cataſtrophes, as well as the ſudden appearance of new lands. A ſhoal, the foundation of an iſland, gains in height from day to day. Not a hundred years ſince there were on it eighteen fathoms water; when I viſited theſe parts, there were no more than five or ſix; and this ground, in all probability, has ſince riſen much more.

Lands, reſting on numerous cavities, the walls of which are deſiccated and without conſiſtency, which gulfs, where a terrible and laſting fire is kept up, undermine and conſume, are neceſſarily expoſed to commotions and convulſions; and theſe ſhocks are ſometimes felt at ſea, at a rather conſiderable diſtance from the iſlands. An officer of the navy, very worthy of credit, who, in 1775, commanded the *Hirondelle* veſſel of war, related to me, that, being at ſea pretty well in with the Iſland of Santorin, and to the weſt of it, he experienced, during the night, very violent effects of an earthquake. The maſs of the waters was ſo ſhaken by it, that the veſſel received ſome very violent ſhocks, which ſpread an alarm among the crew, and made them ſuppoſe that ſhe had ſtruck on a ſunken rock. The animals contained in the ſhip, ſheep, dogs, and poultry, began at the ſame time to cry in an

an extraordinary manner, and, by their agitation and their clamours, manifeſted that they partook of the terror by which the men were ſtruck.

However, earthquakes are leſs frequent at SANTORIN, in our time, than they were at the periods when the volcanoes diſplayed the terrible activity of their ſubterraneous fires; thoſe great phenomena of Nature no longer ſpread terror there but at remote intervals. We are ignorant at what epoch the iſland dropped the name of *CALLISTE*, in order to aſſume that of *THERA*, or at what time it began to be called *SANT ERINI*, from the name of ST. IRENA, the patroneſs of the iſland. Of *SANT ERINI* has been made SANTORIN. Be this as it may, if in former times this country deſerved the name of *CALLISTE*, the *Beautiful Iſland*, we may at this day give it, with full as good reaſon, that of hideous. On all ſides, is ſeen there the action of volcanoes; every thing is conſumed by fire, calcined, thrown out, and heaped up in horrible confuſion. Enormous maſſes of burnt rocks, of a blackiſh gray, inacceſſible, and ſcarcely to be approached, ſurround it towards the ſea; at their foot are bottomleſs gulfs; in the interior, lava, pumice-ſtones, pozzolana, every

volcanic ſubſtance there forms the ſoil: no woods, no rivers, no rivulets; it is an appendage which fire ſeems to have condemned to an eternal aridity.

We ſhould not, indeed, expect to meet with fertile diſtricts amidſt all the elements of ſterility. Corn of various ſpecies grows very well on ſtrata of aſhes and pumice-ſtones; cotton thrives there equally well; fruit-trees there take root, and diffuſe ſome agreeableneſs; in ſhort, beautiful vineyards there produce wines much eſteemed, but ſulphurous, which, with cotton and the fine callicoes that are there manufactured, render SANTORIN one of the moſt trading iſlands in the ARCHIPELAGO. At the time when TOURNEFORT travelled, the French had a conſul there; but he has been withdrawn with the trade which they carried on at this iſland. Two biſhops, one of the Greek church, and the other of the Latin, guide their reſpective flocks, at the ſame time haraſſing each other inceſſantly, and diſputing on matters which the one underſtands no better than the other. FRANCE maintained there Jeſuits and Capuchins, who ſcarcely agreed better than the biſhops.

The inhabitants have no other water than that of ciſterns: it is alſo in this calcined rock,

rock, of a conſiſtence ſo ſlight, that they build or rather excavate their houſes, the greater part of which have an arched roof. SANTORIN, without being preciſely an unwholeſome place of reſidence, is not exempt from dangers. The volcanic vapours which are there inhaled, affect the health, and thoſe who remain long expoſed to them, are ſubject to conſumptive complaints.

On the ſouth part of SANTORIN was built, on the ſummit of a mountain, called in our days *St. Stephen's Mountain*, a flouriſhing town, the capital of the iſland, whoſe name of *THERA* it bore. Its ruins ſtill atteſt its ancient magnificence. Here was a temple dedicated to NEPTUNE, and another to APOLLO, to whom the whole iſland was conſecrated. TOURNEFORT mentions ſome inſcriptions of THERA*, and CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER gives the drawings of fragments of ſuperb monuments, and, in particular, of two large ſtatues, which are ſpoken of in the inſcriptions, and which the people of THERA had erected in honour of the Emperors MARCUS AURELIUS and ANTONINUS. Theſe ſtatues, of tolerably handſome execution, are in marble, but at

* *Voyage au Levant*, vol. i. page 272.

preſent

preſent are headleſs*, and lying on the ground.

A ſingular cuſtom, which is not to be met with in the hiſtory of any other people, was eſtabliſhed at THERA. They neither mourned for children who died before ſeven years of age, nor for men who died turned of fifty; the latter, becauſe they had probably lived long enough; and the former, becauſe it was not thought that they had yet entered into life†.

The moſt agreeable place in SANTORIN is PYRGOS, a ſmall town built on a little hill, whence is diſcovered the two ſeas, and the moſt beautiful diſtricts of the iſland. At the foot of this hill is a cove, fit only for the reception of the boats of the country, and indeed they are not there always in ſafety; for when the wind and the ſea riſe and are agitated, they are forced to abandon it, and gain a ſmall bay, more ſheltered and more ſafe, to the northward of Cape *APANOMERIA*, and under another ſmall town which bears the name of *SAN NICOLO*. The latter is ſituated on a

* *Voyage Pittoreſque de la Grèce*, vol. i. page 37, and plate XLIX.

† *Idem, ibid.*

lofty

lofty eminence, formed of enormous groups of burnt rocks, ſtanding perpendicular on the margin of the abyſs of the ſea, and threatening to ingulf themſelves there with the inhabitants, who have eſtabliſhed their reſidence on a baſe ſo unſubſtantial, and whoſe aſpect inſpires horror.

Between SAN NICOLO and PYRGOS, at the extremity of the horſe-ſhoe which the Iſland of SANTORIN forms to the weſt, and on a point which projects towards the KAMMENI Iſlands, ſtands the caſtle of SCARO, whoſe ſituation is ſtill more frightful than that of SAN NICOLO. The rocks of this narrow cape are likewiſe calcined, but higher and more ſhattered than in any place on the coaſt; ſo that SCARO appears half-ſuſpended above horrible precipices which terminate at the ſea; while a part of theſe ſame rocks, almoſt reduced to aſhes, overlooks the little town on one ſide, and threatens every moment to cruſh it.

PYRGOS, SAN NICOLO, and SCARO, are the only three places of any conſequence in the Iſle of SANTORIN: there are ſome villages in the interior, and the whole population, aſſembled, may form a maſs of eight or ten thouſand inhabitants, induſtrious and active;

but, like their biſhops, frequently divided by religious opinions, and exaſperated againſt each other, ſome being catholics, and others declared heretics; all very credulous, very headſtrong in matters of theology, and endeavouring continually to extend their creed and their domination, at the expenſe of their adverſaries.

The inhabitants of SANTORIN ſhare, with thoſe of a great number of other iſlands, the advantage of having no Turks among them. Their coaſts affording no harbours and places for anchoring, they are not frequented by ſhips of war belonging to the Ottoman navy, and ſcarcely ever by corſairs. In paying the tribute which is exacted from them, they are leſs tormented than many other iſlanders, and they can give themſelves up, with greater ſafety and tranquillity, to the labours of culture and the concerns of their traffic.

Theſe induſtrious Greeks were ſo fully ſenſible of the value of this ſort of liberty, acquired by the ſituation of their iſland, that they employed, within theſe few years, every means imaginable to prevail on two learned travellers, OLIVIER and BRUGUIERE, not to abandon them to the barbarous fiſcal power of the Turks, by cauſing to be worked in their

their iſland the *pozzolana*, of excellent quality, which is there to be found in abundance, and which was intended for conſtructing, in the harbour of CONSTANTINOPLE, a baſin on the plan of that of TOULON*. No doubt, very commendable motives of public intereſt and perſonal generoſity determined thoſe learned travellers to reject the offers of the Greeks of SANTORIN, as they had before refuſed the propoſals, very advantageous, but of another kind, made to them by ſome Armenians. In this, as in many other circumſtances, the laws of humanity could not tally with the rules of policy. Officers belonging to the Ottoman Porte came into the midſt of the inhabitants of SANTORIN, to employ violence and injuſtice, for the purpoſe of taking them from peaceable and profitable labours, and of compelling them to extract the volcanic ſubſtance, the beginning of a local tyranny, which, till then, they had had the happineſs to

* Report of Travels performed, by order of the government, in the *Ottoman Empire*, *Egypt*, and *Perſia*, during the firſt ſix years of the Republic, read to the National Inſtitute by Citizen OLIVIER, aſſociated member, in the ſitting of the 26th Pluvoiſe.—*Magazin Encyclop.* fourth year, vol. vi. No. xxii. page 196.

avoid,

avoid, and of a laſting hatred againſt the French, whom they will long conſider as the authors of their misfortune.

The Iſle of SANTORIN is by no means broad, and may be eſtimated at ſeven or eight leagues in circuit. From the top of its mountains is diſcovered the Iſland of CANDIA, which is diſtant from it about eighteen leagues. Two leagues to the ſouth-weſt of SANTORIN, lie two iſlets, little known, becauſe they are altogether unintereſting, and reſpecting which it was not in my power to procure any information. They are named the *Great* and the *Little* CHRISTIANA.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XVI.

Iſland of Candia.—*Advantages of its poſition.—Peculiar direction in which it lies, and conjectures reſpecting its formation.*—Canea.—Savary.—*His abilities, his character, his amiableneſs.*—*French conſuls at* Canea.—*The Author meets with one of his country-women.*—*Olive-oil.*—*Capuchin.*—*Provençal renegado.*—*Janizary.*—*Greek monks.*

THRICE have I viſited the Iſland of CANDIA; thrice have I landed on the ſhores of that famous country, which, under the name of CRETE, was rendered illuſtrious by the inſtitutions of MINOS, the hundred cities which it contained, and the courage of its inhabitants; which, in times leſs remote, became the magnificent domain of the Republic of VENICE, and the theatre of the ſignal valour of its armies; and which at length ſhares the common lot of misfortune attached to every country

country ſubject to the monſtrous domination of the Ottomans.

My firſt viſit to this iſland was in the ATALANTE frigate, on board of which I ſailed to EGYPT; the polacre in which I embarked at ALEXANDRIA landed me there a ſecond time; and I returned thither once more in the MIGNONNE, another frigate, commanded by D'ENTRECASTEAUX. I have availed myſelf of the ſtay, more or leſs long, which I made there: and, without dwelling on the periods of theſe different voyages, or ſubjecting myſelf to give diſtinct details of them, I ſhall compreſs into one ſingle point the remarks which I collected at theſe different periods.

The Iſland of CANDIA is the largeſt in the MEDITERRANEAN, of which its poſition ſeems to inſure it the empire and the commerce. It is, in fact, at no great diſtance from AFRICA, ASIA, and EUROPE: ſome of its harbours are equally good and ſpacious; it would be an eaſy matter to prepare there expeditions for the three quarters of the globe. Its inhabitants are numerous and active; the very diverſified productions of its territory poſſeſs the qualities calculated to bring them into requeſt; the nature of its ſoil, the mildneſs of its climate, promiſe comfort and agreeableneſs;

ableneſs; and this country might be again, as in very ancient times, the *Iſland of the bleſſed**, if the laws of MINOS, which HOMER conſidered as emanating from JUPITER himſelf†, could once more govern a people, whoſe ancient greatneſs has been effaced under the impreſſion of a diſgraceful ſervitude.

Like the greater part of the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, this is much longer than broad; it is reckoned to be two hundred leagues in circumference; it is partly ſituated under the 35th degree of latitude, and is compriſed between the 24th and 27th degrees of longitude‡. But what has hitherto eſcaped remark, but which, nevertheleſs, is an important obſervation, is, that all the other iſlands of the ſame ſea lie, with reſpect to their length, in a north and ſouth direction, with more or leſs inclination towards the eaſt or weſt; whereas the Iſland of CANDIA extends from eaſt to weſt; it appears to be a long baſe, on which the whole ARCHIPELAGO repoſes. This peculiar direction indicates a different

* *Macarion neſos.*—Vide PLIN. Hiſt. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xviii.

† Odyſſey, book xix.

‡ From the meridian of *Greenwich.*

origin. The iſlands of the ÆGEAN SEA are the ſummits of mountains, which belong to a country whoſe plains have been ſubmerged by a ſudden irruption of the waters of the BLACK SEA. The effects of this vaſt ſubmerſion are diſcoverable in the form of the maſſes which it has ſuffered to ſubſiſt, and which have all preſerved a direction parallel to the current that has inſulated them, and whoſe impetuoſity has been broken againſt the Iſland of CANDIA, on which it has been unable to make any impreſſion. May it not be ſuppoſed that theſe very waters, of a rapidity ſo violent, and a part of which was directed towards the ſouth-eaſt, repelled by the lands of SYRIA, may have exerciſed their action in a direction contrary to their firſt impulſe, and have detached from AFRICA the Iſland of CANDIA, by inundating the low lands by which they were united? And this conjecture of the ancient junction of CANDIA with the coaſt of BARBARY acquires an additional degree of probability, when we pay attention to the ſhallowneſs of the channel which ſeparates them, and whoſe bottom every where affords ſoundings.

However it may be in regard to theſe hypotheſes, which I offer with diffidence, the

Iſland

Iſland of CANDIA has alſo another affinity to the other iſlands of this ſame part of the MEDITERRANEAN: a chain of mountains traverſes it in its length; but its territory is the moſt hilly of all.

In coming from the weſt, the firſt land diſcovered is a point ſtretching very far into the ſea, and which, on that account, is called Cape *SPADA*, anciently the promontory of *PSACUM*. This long point forms, with Cape *MELECCA* or *MELEK*, which our navigators call *MELIER*, formerly *CIAMUM*, a large bay, at the head of which lie the harbour and the town of CANEA. It is an opinion, rather generally received, that it is built on the ſite of *CYDONIA* or *CYDON*, a flouriſhing city of ancient CRETE. No veſtige of ancient edifices is there to be perceived; and it is only from what hiſtorians and geographers have tranſmitted to us on the ſubject, that we determine this poſition.

The modern town has nothing remarkable. The form of its buildings is the ſame as in all the EAST; that is, that in lieu of roofs, inclined and forming a ridge, they have a flat covering, without tiles or ſlates, and in the form of a terrace. The greater part have only one ſtory: the ſtreets are laid out by

the line; ſome are tolerably wide, and fountains flow with an abundant ſtream in the public ſquares. SAVARY, who has frequently endeavoured to embelliſh things the moſt remote from beauty, ſpeaks of the balconies that adorn the houſes by which the harbour is ſurrounded, and from which, he ſays, the proſpect is delightful*. The view extends, indeed, to a tolerable diſtance, but only on the gulf formed by Cape MELECCA and Cape SPADA, and this ſpace of ſea is often naked; veſſels entering or going out of the harbour not being ſo frequent as SAVARY ſeems to intimate. On the other hand, the balcony, whence this traveller diſcovered a horizon which, in truth, preſents nothing charming, becauſe the picture is deficient in points of view and motion, far from adorning the houſe of the French conſul, ſerved rather to diſfigure it. It was, in fact, only a wretched circular wooden railing, on which it was hardly ſafe to ſtand, and at which ended a flight of ſteps, or rather a wooden ladder, placed on the outſide, in order to form a communication with the upper ſtory, which was the conſul's lodging.

* *Lettres ſur la Grèce.* See the end of the twenty-ninth Letter.

This

This rage of lending to objects the moſt ſimple a luſtre of which they are frequently not ſuſceptible, is perceivable in the letters which SAVARY has written on GREECE, with ſtill more affectation than in his work reſpecting EGYPT. The reader of them might imagine that he was peruſing Oriental tales. Whether the imagination of the author have acquired more aſcendency, through the habit of not being checked; whether, yielding to his paſſion of painting ſubjects which it was neceſſary only to ſketch with exactneſs, it may have become a matter of neceſſity to him to make them ſhine with a luſtre in which they were deficient; his pencil has too frequently deviated from the original, and his colouring has more than once diſguiſed auſtere truth. His pictures, beſides, however glowing they may be, are often placed unſeaſonably and in a wrong way. We read, for example, with extreme pleaſure, the portrait which, with a light and ſkilful hand, he draws of two nuns belonging to a convent of Greek women of the environs of CANEA; it is not poſſible to preſent, with more art and agreeableneſs, the contraſt of two figures, one of whom united all the charms of youth and beauty, while the other exhibited the deep impreſſion of old

age and decrepitude. But was it worth while to travel into GREECE to compoſe theſe portraits, which might, perhaps, paſs for portraits of fancy? And in what monaſtery of our countries have we not ſeen both old and young nuns exhibiting the ſame features of diſparity and contraſt?

But if, as a traveller, SAVARY ſtrays beyond the limits which accuracy has preſcribed, he captivates his readers when we conſider him as a writer. He poſſeſſes, in the higheſt degree, the talent of feeling, and of making others feel deeply: his deſcriptions are replete with warmth and life; his ſtyle is brilliant, like his imagination; and the exuberance of his fancy is, as it were, only a miſtake of his ardent mind, which endeavoured to animate every thing around it, and to diffuſe the delightful tints of the feeling by which it was fired.

To theſe rare and amiable qualities of mind, SAVARY joined a plain and ſimple exterior; he was endowed with natural beneficence, which made him beloved, as the integrity of his character gained him eſteem. His converſation, like all his habits, had nothing ſtudied: he ſeemed to have reſerved the fire of his genius for his writings; and, when one heard

heard him ſpeak, one did not expect to enjoy ſo much pleaſure in reading him. I had ſeen him in EGYPT: I met with him again, in 1780, at CANEA. He had followed the fortunes of his worthy and reſpectable friend, M. DE KERCY, whom, againſt every appearance of ſucceſs, M. DE TOTT, appointed by the court inſpector-general of the ſea-port towns of the LEVANT, had ſent to DAMIETTA, in order to exerciſe there the functions of vice-conſul. M. DE KERCY was ſoon forced to quit ſo dangerous a poſt: he came to fill the place of conſul at CANEA, where I had great reaſon to be well ſatisfied with the polite attentions of two friends, equally commendable from their virtues and their merit; and the lines which I have juſt conſecrated to the memory of one of them, towards whom, whether he may have been praiſed or blamed, the world have almoſt always been unjuſt, are the expreſſion of truth, and of the ſentiments with which they have inſpired me.

The French conſul who reſided at CANEA, before M. DE KERCY, was married to a young woman, born in the ſame place, and in the ſame diſtrict as myſelf: our families had been for a long time united; and the renewal of

acquaintance, which did not take place till after the expiration of a few days, had ſomething theatrical, but at the ſame time very agreeable. A man muſt have paſſed ſeveral years out of his own country, have travelled over very diſtant and dangerous regions, to experience the gratification ariſing from the meeting with one of his relations, or perſons who remind him of thoſe he loves, as well as of the pleaſing habits of the early part of life. I know not whether my young countrywoman found herſelf happy from a union which Hymen had formed, without having lighted it with his torch, ſince there exiſted too great a diſparity of age and perſon, even without having added to it the charms or conſolations of fecundity. But ſome apertures, almoſt imperceptible, with which the floors, the doors, and the partitions of the apartments, were, if I may ſo ſay, pierced like a ſieve, led me to think that the eye of jealouſy was there on the watch, and that the flag which waved over the conſul's houſe, was not a taliſman ſufficiently powerful for introducing French confidence, nor for averting the abſurd and ſtern incredulity of the Muſſulmans, on the ſubject of the moſt intereſting

teſting attribute of beauty, the fidelity of women.

Several houſes of MARSEILLES alſo maintained factors at CANEA; their principal commerce conſiſted of a quantity of olive-oil, which the Iſland of CANDIA furniſhes, and which ſerved to ſupply our ſoap manufactories. Every year there was made of this article as much as loaded twenty veſſels, which were diſpatched to FRANCE; and theſe ſame veſſels brought back to the Turks manufactured ſoap: but this branch of national induſtry had loſt much of its importance, through the imprudent combinations of ſome Frenchmen, who had inſtructed the Turks of CANEA to make ſoap, and had directed this manufacture.

Beſides the conſul and the merchants, there was alſo at CANEA a French Capuchin, who officiated as their chaplain. The houſe which he occupied in the interior of the town was open to ſtrangers, who there found lodging and board at a very moderate price, and which the obliging friar always left at the diſpoſal of his boarders. I lodged there on my ſecond voyage, and I had every reaſon to be ſatisfied with the attentions and the good company of my landlord. He had to ſerve him, both at table

table and at the altar, a little Greek belonging to the Iſle of CERIGO, who ſpoke French tolerably well; he had the complaiſance to allow this youth to attend me, on my departure from CANEA, that he might ſerve as my interpreter during the remainder of my travels.

In order to anſwer the ſame object, in the various excurſions which I made in CANDIA, I took with me a Provençal renegado, a moſt wretched ſailor, who, to eſcape a juſt puniſhment, had pretended to embrace the religion of MAHOMET. He was a gunner at the fort of SUDA, though he had never been employed in the ſervice of the artillery; and, in this new ſtation, he paſſed for a very ſkilful perſon in the eyes of his companions, whoſe ignorance in gunnery was ſtill much greater. Notwithſtanding his pretended abilities, this man lived in a low and even abject ſtate: he was perfectly acquainted with the bulk of the people, in the midſt of whom he dragged on his debaſed exiſtence, and whoſe confidence he had not found means to gain by adopting their religious principles and habits; he likewiſe did juſtice to himſelf, and truth ſometimes eſcaped him on this ſubject in a very ingenuous manner. It occurred to him, when

we were travelling, to recommend to me to keep my property always at my elbow—"*Becauſe*," ſaid he, "*in this country you ought to miſtruſt* "*every one, and me in particular.*" A confeſſion of ſuch a nature gave me the meaſure of the confidence which I might have in this wretch: I muſt, however, acknowledge, that he never robbed nor cheated me, although I did not always take ſuch precautions as the little faith he himſelf had in his own honeſty prompted him to point out to me.

To protect me from all inſult, there had been appointed to attend me, when I went out of the town, a janizary, who was, perhaps, the handſomeſt, the moſt robuſt, and the moſt muſcular man that I ever beheld in my life. He might alſo be reckoned one of the moſt miſchievous. He was the terror of the country-places. Conſtantly armed from top to toe, on every occaſion he made uſe of his weapons; threats were inceſſantly in his mouth; and his ſtern countenance, his large ſparkling eyes, his burſts of paſſion, his ſtature, and his ſtrength, cauſed their effects to be dreaded. He treated the Greeks as a ſervile herd; blows with his ſtick, or his ſabre, were dealt out to them, and even piſtols diſcharged at

at them, on the ſmalleſt reſiſtance. This Turk, who belonged to CANDIA, had been preſented to me as a bold and enterpriſing man, and thoſe who gave him that character were not miſtaken: they would have been equally juſtified in deſcribing him as a dangerous and ungovernable robber. But this fellow, furious towards others, was always very mild with me: he was capable of feeling, that, being in my pay, he was bound to obey me; and never did he fail to do ſo, at leaſt in every thing in which I was perſonally concerned. However, this ſort of command which I had over him, did not extend ſo far as to prevent him from uſing ill the Greeks who happened to be too ſlow in executing his orders, in the villages where we ſtopped, nor from making me alight at all the convents which lay near our route, however cloſe they were to each other. He there ordered a collation; cauſed himſelf to be ſerved with the beſt wines, with which he got drunk in ſpite of MAHOMET; ſpread confuſion and terror through the whole monaſtery; and did not quit it till after he had gorged himſelf with meat and drink, in the hope of ſoon meeting with another halting-place, in order that he might there renew the ſame

orgies

orgies and the ſame uproar. I carefully concealed myſelf from him, when I offered to the monks a juſt indemnification: they did not accept it themſelves but with trembling; and they would have been undone, had it been perceived by my impetuous companion. Theſe poor friars pitied me very ſincerely for being, as it were, in his hands; and they were at a loſs to conceive how I did not alſo become the victim of his paſſionate and violent diſpoſition.

If the ſoul of theſe monks had not been debaſed by ſlavery, with what torments would it not have rent, on recollecting that their nation was formerly celebrated for its power and greatneſs; on reflecting that, deſcendants of the valorous Cretans, they had terminated a long career of glory, to become the ſlaves of a barbarian, and the ſport of his brutality! But the habit of misfortune, the groſſeſt ignorance, and the exerciſe of ſuperſtition, have degraded them to ſuch a degree, that we are tempted to ceaſe to pity them, as ſoon as we are acquainted with their diſpoſition.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XVII.

Excurſion to Cape Melecca.—*Convent of the* Trinity.—*Inſcription.*—*Monks of the* Trinity.—*Their way of life, their table, their habitation, their ſituation in regard to the Turks.*—*Compariſon between this monaſtery and thoſe of the Deſert of* Nitria, *in* Egypt.—*Fowling.*—*Birds.*—*Agriculture.*—*Wheat.*—*Barley.*—*Lupins.*—*Rainy ſeaſon.*

THE wide promontory, known by the name of Cape *Melecca*, preſenting ſeveral objects of curioſity, I failed not to go thither. I made this little excurſion on horſe-back; the French vice-conſul, and three captains of merchant-veſſels, at anchor in the harbour of Canea, wiſhed to be of the party. It was in the month of November. We ſaw on our route a great many gray wagtails, and a much greater number of thruſhes.

At half a day's journey from the town of Canea ſtands the convent of the Trinity, built

built againſt a high mountain of arid and accumulated rocks. This ground, gloomy and wild, throws out the luminous parts of the picture, and forms an agreeable contraſt with the fields which lie in front. It is a large, cultivated plain, interſected by patches of vines, and half ſhaded by a quantity of olive-trees, planted at ſome diſtance from each other. In the middle of this plain, embelliſhed by the richneſs of its productions, an avenue of cypreſs-trees leads to the grand ſtair-caſe of the monaſtery. Other cypreſs and orange trees ſurround it, and form a charming proſpect.

The convent is the work of the Venetians, it has the form of a parallelogram, and is extremely well built. The church is in a very good taſte, and we ſee with regret that it has not been finiſhed. Its inſide is agreeably decorated. On the portal are two inſcriptions, the one in Greek, the other in Latin, almoſt unintelligible. The following is the Latin inſcription, which I have faithfully copied, and which conveys no high idea of the erudition of its author:

PRECLARO ASINVZAN CAROLE, PROSAPIE, HIEREMIAS SAPIENTISSIMUS ET LAURENTIUS SOLERTISSIMOUS GERMANI AMBO SACRIFICI ET INIVGES, MAGNA CUM IMPENSA ET ACRIMONIA TALIA GESSERUNT ILLE ENIM SUFFICIENTER INCEPTI LABOREM IMPENDIT QUE CONFECIT

FECIT HONESTE HEVERO PROPAGATOR ILLIUS VOTI SUPPLEVIT RELIQUUM ET HOC PERPULCHRUM FUNDI-TUS TEMPLUM INSTAURAVIT.

The names of the two founders of the convent are mentioned in this inſcription, of very whimſical Latin; but, at the ſame time, the eſſential point is omitted, that is, the date.

All the cells of the convent are far from being occupied. A hundred friars dwelt here formerly; when TOURNEFORT arrived, the community was compoſed of fifty only, and I found here no more than twelve. So rapid a diminution in this tribe of cenobites ariſes not, as might be imagined, from an indifference towards the monaſtic ſtate; it is owing to the general depopulation, the uſual ſymptoms of the Turkiſh government, and which has been felt in the Iſland of CANDIA more forcibly than elſewhere.

This ſmall number of friars is ſtill expoſed to the violences of theſe ſame Turks, inhabitants of the towns of CANDIA, and who have a great roughneſs in their character. Any degree of affluence, acquired by agriculture, dares not ſhew itſelf at the convent of the TRINITY. That aſylum of men, given up to noble and uſeful labours, which ſpread over the earth the treaſures and the dreſs of fecundity, would neither be reſpected nor ſpared,

did

did barbarians ſuſpect riches there, or only abundance and a choice of food. Accordingly theſe monks affect to lead a poor life, and they ſtrictly confine themſelves to bare neceſſaries. The diſplay of wretchedneſs does not always protect them from the viſits and ill uſage of their brutal rulers. Paſſionate and miſchievous men come ſometimes, and ſpread terror within the walls of a building which commands reſpect; and, taking an ungenerous advantage of the ſort of infamy that they have attached to the name of Chriſtian, and of the oppreſſive and ſhameful ſlavery to which they have reduced the people whom they have ſubjugated, and in whom the ſhadow of reſiſtance would be a capital crime, they exact, with ſabres and piſtols in their hands, refreſhments which it is frequently dangerous to refuſe them. A few days prior to my excurſion to the TRINITY, two Greek monks belonging to another convent, on the road of RETIMO, were maſſacred by ſome Turks, who introduced themſelves into the houſe, during the night, in order to be revenged for a refuſal which had been made to them, the day before, of a few cups of coffee.

In theſe ſudden irruptions of robbery, the ſituation of the ſuperior of the monaſtery becomes very delicate; but the habit of ſeeing himſelf expoſed to it, renders it, as it were, familiar. He is ſeen braving, with coolneſs, the threats of fiery paſſion; ſometimes employing the language of firmneſs; ſometimes endeavouring to appeaſe by the cringing tone of ſervility, and almoſt always ſucceeding in getting rid of his dangerous gueſts, by exerting himſelf to prove to them, that it is impoſſible that the houſe, too poor, ſhould poſſeſs the means of gratifying their wiſhes. This ſingular part, a mixture of dignity and debaſement, which frequently laſts ſeveral hours, muſt be very painful; indeed, a man muſt be a monk and a Greek, to ſuſtain it for ſo long a period.

Secret receſſes, almoſt impoſſible to be diſcovered, conceal from the reſearches of petulant avidity the choice proviſions, which are thence brought forth only on certain occaſions, ſuch as the arrival of ſome ſtrangers. Viſiters of this deſcription are well received; but this good reception is no more than the ſhadow of decent hoſpitality; it is intereſt alone that ſuggeſts it to the monks, and they never fail to give notic that nothing

thing under their roof is gratuitous: they do not even wait for the effects of generosity, nor for those of a just return of civil behaviour; and, in lieu of relying on the delicacy of their guests, they extort money from them in the most vile and gross manner; so that the duplicity and meanness of their character soon dispels the good opinion which may have been conceived of men estimable under the consideration of industry and labour.

We found in their house a table served with simplicity and neatness; the dishes were abundant, but without seasoning; it was the luxury of frugality. No other viands are here served up than those brought by visiters; and we had provided ourselves with some poultry of the most beautiful species; the hens of CANDIA being, in general, very large, and having on their head a broad tuft of long feathers. But the most delicious fruits were here found in profusion; fresh olives, apples, oranges, whose peel is finer and pulp sweeter than those of MALTA: sweet and perfumed figs here formed a rich and brilliant variety, at the same time that they flattered the smell. Cakes of balmy honey, pure and white as crystal, and the most beautiful in the world, rose in the form of a pyramid in

the middle of this elegant courſe. The beſt cheeſes, made with the milk of ewes, were at the two ends of the table; and the heady and ſweet wine, which was unadulterated, gave birth to gaiety among the gueſts, and even unknit the gloomy brow of the monks, who, utterly indifferent as to the pleaſure of offering us this charming collation, experienced no ſatisfaction but in thinking of the recompenſe which they promiſed themſelves for it.

This convent of the TRINITY offers nothing remarkable but its delightful ſituation. The friars take care to make ſtrangers go down to a little cellar, by no means curious, where they bury their dead. The heads of the two founders, whoſe names are to be read in the inſcription which I have tranſcribed, are preſerved in glazed cloſets, and the monks ſhew them with veneration, the conſequence of habit rather than of gratitude.

The tyranny of the Turks hangs heavy over this convent in more than one particular, as well as over all the others in the ſame country. The friars who inhabit them are not allowed to add to the buildings which are conſtructed there, nor to repair thoſe which are falling into ruins. They have never been able to ſucceed

ſucceed in obtaining leave to finiſh their church; and, when they wiſh to make any repairs or embelliſhments, they wait till a pacha, leſs ſtern or more tractable than they commonly are, comes to command at CANEA; then they eſteem themſelves happy to purchaſe from him, at any price, permiſſion to call in workmen. Thus it was that, a little time before my arrival, they had paid dearly for the right of gilding the ſculpture of the farther end of their church. But theſe labours, although authorized by the governor, muſt be proſecuted with caution. Carried too far, they awaken the cupidity of the Turks, who, conceiving too high an idea of the riches of the friars, would not fail to make them a pretext for freſh extortions. What a monſtrous adminiſtration is that which puniſhes, as a crime, the care of adorning and repairing our dwelling, and in which whatever deſerves the greateſt encouragement is but a ſource of calamity and oppreſſion!

We ſpent two days in this agreeable retreat. Our time glided away in viſiting the beautiful plain, at the extremity of which it is ſituated, in taking the diverſion of ſhooting, and ſtrolling over the hills by which it is bordered: in the evening we re-aſſembled;

the collation was prepared, and the wholeſome and delicious diſhes of which it was compoſed, could not, by a painful digeſtion, diſturb the repoſe to which gentle exerciſe had inclined us.

When I compared this happy ſituation to that in which I had found myſelf, ſome time before, in the hideous Coptic monaſteries of the deſert of St. MACARIUS, or of NITRIA, in EGYPT, how charming it appeared to me! There a fiery climate, moving and hot ſands, uncooled by any rain, unſought by any living being, a ſcarce, harſh and unattractive vegetation, beſpeak the languor of Nature. An encloſure of high walls, burning as the ſoil on which they ſtand, ſaddens the mind and terrifies the ſight; and when the traveller penetrates into that horrible priſon, he there finds only the ſame nakedneſs which reigns without; dens, rather than cells, deteſtable water, lentil bread, and all the marks of the moſt frightful wretchedneſs. Here, on the contrary, the temperature is mild; the fertile earth is decked with the richeſt productions; the proſpects are cheerful; here, every thing charms the ſenſes, every thing is good and agreeable, with the exception of the government,

ment, which we love to forget when we are viſiting this delightful diſtrict.

Our fowling, or, to ſpeak more correctly, our walks, for they were not fatiguing, produced us ſeveral ſpecies of birds. We procured ſome red partridges; two woodcocks, extremely lean, and the only ones that we met with; and ſome turtles, thruſhes, and blackbirds, which are in conſiderable numbers on the olive-trees, whoſe fruit they eat. We likewiſe ſaw a great many larks, collected in numerous flocks in the fields; and, on the olive-trees, chaffinches, titmice, goldfinches, bull-finches, &c. I remarked, that theſe laſt-mentioned birds did not aſſemble ſeveral together, like the others; they are ſeen only in pairs: the male and female follow and keep near to each other; they frequently call each other back, the male by a cry conſiſting of a ſharp ſound, followed by two grave ſounds, ſomewhat ſimilar to that given by two little ſtones ſtruck the one againſt the other. It is by theſe laſt two tones only that the female anſwers. The bull-finches whiſtle like the blackbird: means are even found to make them articulate words, after the ſtring of their tongue has been cut.

The natives were beginning to till and ſow the lands. A ſingle ploughing preceded the ſowing of wheat; and, for barley, they contented themſelves with ſcattering it on the ſtubble, and then going over it with the plough, as I have ſeen practiſed in my own country, even for wheat, by negligent and dilatory cultivators. Here, the furrows were not cut deeply; the farmers did no more than turn up the ſurface of the ground; and this ſlight culture, which is followed by plentiful harveſts, is a certain indication of the fertility of the ſoil. On examination, it proves, in fact, to be of the beſt quality, reddiſh, and of a good conſiſtence, without being too compact.

This light, but ſubſtantial land, is alſo extremely well adapted to the culture of lupins; whole fields are ſown with them. This legume is a very common food with the people of CANDIA. In order to deprive it of the intolerable tartneſs and bitterneſs, which prevent its being made uſe of without dreſſing, it is put to ſoak for five or ſix days in ſea-water; it is then boiled and eaten, after being ſtripped of its ſhell or huſk.

Seed-time does not take place in CANDIA till after the early rains, which there commonly

monly begin in October. They happened later in 1778, and none were ſeen to fall, for the firſt time of that ſeaſon, till the 11th of November; and, indeed, the plains were parched up, and the plants died from drought. The early rains are accompanied by ſtorms, boiſterous winds, and claps of thunder.

Winter, in the Iſland of CANDIA, is, properly ſpeaking, no more than a rainy ſeaſon, during which the ſky is more charged with clouds, and the heat leſs powerful, but never ſo much as to make it neceſſary to have recourſe to artificial warmth: it is a period more temperate, more wet, but which is by no means rough or unpleaſant.

However, the high mountains are covered with ſnow in this ſeaſon. On the 18th of November, 1778, the ſummit of the lofty mountains, which form an amphitheatre behind CANEA, was ſeen, for the firſt time, crowned with ſnow; it remains there till the month of June. It has been obſerved, that when winter has whitened the ridge of theſe hills, the north wind, which frequently blows with dangerous impetuoſity in the Gulf of CANEA, is no longer felt there with ſo much violence, becauſe it is ſtopped, or at leaſt greatly

greatly moderated, by a light land-breeze, which is termed a *ſnow-wind*.

A long ſeries of obſervations has furniſhed navigators who frequent the harbour of CANDIA with a certain mean of aſcertaining the ſtate of the atmoſphere in the open ſea, from the ſole inſpection of the ſame chain of mountains which encircles the town to the ſouth. When the clouds collect in heaps above the moſt prominent of theſe hills, which bears the name of *CALEPO*, the weather is bad in the offing, and the wind almoſt always to the northward: navigators then take good care not to quit the harbour. If, on the contrary, the ridge of the mountain is clear and free from vapours, they are certain of finding, without, the wind moderate, and favourable for ſailing out of the gulf, and getting clear of the coaſt.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XVIII.

Caloyers. — Papas. — Their divine ſervice.— Nomination of the chiefs of the Greek church, —Ancient formula of the letters patent for the nomination of the Greek biſhops.—Accident.—Convent of St. John.—*Another deſerted convent of the ſame name.—Mountains of Cape* Melecca.—Catholicos.—*Grotto.—Stalactites.—Solitude. — Partridges. —Wild goats.— Grotto of the Bear.—Return to* Canea.—*A Turk, friend to the French.*

CONVENTS are very numerous in GREECE; they are ſanctuaries conſecrated to ignorance, ſuperſtition, and moſt frequently to ſloth. To the monks is given the name of *caloyers*; from *kalos*, good, and from *gèros*, old man, good old man. We are very far, however, from ſeeing among them none but old men, or even men of a certain age. It is not uncommon to meet with young boys, of from ten

ten to twelve years old, clothed in the habit, which conſiſts of a plain, long, black gown, confined by a girdle. The variety of the regulations, the medley of the dreſſes, which ſtrike the traveller, in the different claſſes of friars ſpread over the ſurface of the countries ſubmitted to the Latin church, are not to be remarked among the Greeks; there exiſts but one order, that of St. Basil; and the monks, ſubjected to the ſame rule, alſo wear the ſame dreſs.

Theſe friars are very dirty, and, we may add, very ugly, from the habit which they contract of neglecting their exterior, and of neither taking care of their beard nor their hair. Nor are they more to be admired as to interior qualities. Hypocriſy, haughty and groſs ignorance, meanneſs, and treachery, form their character; uninformed as they are, they wiſh to be reckoned, in the eyes of the people, to poſſeſs great knowledge, and to enjoy a reputation for ſanctity, which may procure them reſpect and attention.

Their vows are obedience, chaſtity, and abſtinence. The firſt and the laſt of theſe vows are obſerved with ſufficient exactneſs: men, born in ſlavery, are well calculated to ſtoop under any yoke whatever; and habituated

ated, from infancy, to a hard and miſerable life, the greater part of theſe caloyers being taken only from the loweſt claſs, they eaſily ſupport both the ſimplicity of a coarſe diet, and the privations impoſed on them by the frequent faſts to which they are reſtricted; although ſeveral, it is ſaid, make no ſcruple to indemnify themſelves in private. But it is affirmed, that the ſecond of theſe vows is not ſo ſtrictly complied with; and, were they not accuſed of a degree of brutality, in the infringment of laws which Nature, more powerful than all the inſtitutions of convents, diſavows, we ſhould overlook their yielding to an irreſiſtible impulſe, an enchanting and inevitable delirium, which occupies and inflames all the ſenſes, and before which human compacts ſink and vaniſh.

The diſcipline of the Greek church contradicts not, at leaſt by imprudent obligations, theſe commands of Nature, in regard to her ſecular clergy, whoſe members may marry. Every *papas*, that is the name borne by a ſecular prieſt, may have a wife, whom he eſpouſes before he receives the prieſthood, and whom, in caſe of death, it is forbidden him to replace by another. The wife of a papas is called *papadia*, and ſhe participates in

in the conſideration enjoyed by her huſband. The Greek girls are ambitious of the honour of being united to miniſters of the Divinity; and it is, in general, the youngeſt and handſomeſt, who become the wives of men, for the moſt part, advanced in years, and as dirty and diſguſting as the caloyers.

I ſhall diſpenſe with ſpeaking of the cuſtoms and ceremonies of the Greek ritual; theſe are things too well known, for it to be neceſſary for me to dwell on them. We ſhould, however, conceive an erroneous idea of the decency of their manner of performing divine ſervice, were we to judge of it from the dignity and majeſtic gravity of the ceremonies of the Latin church in EUROPE. Every thing in it is little and paltry; every thing in it partakes of the poverty and narrowneſs of mind of thoſe who officiate; every thing is done with precipitation and irreverence; nothing ſpeaks to the ſoul and impoſes on the ſenſes; nothing in it recalls to mind, that the Creator and the Maſter of the world is the object of their worſhip. They ſtir about a great deal, they chat, they laugh, they are inceſſantly making inclinations of the body, ſigns of the croſs, which ſeem to trace a ſcarf on the breaſt, becauſe the right hand, carried only

only to the forehead, to the right ſhoulder, and then to the left ſhoulder, falls again tranſverſally and with quickneſs. In their ſinging is not to be found the melody and gravity of the Gregorian chant; it is monotonous, rapid, graceleſs, and unimpreſſive, and it is pronounced in a ſnuffling and very diſagreeable manner.

It is well known, that the Turks have an inſurmountable averſion to bells, a conſequence of the hatred which they bear to Chriſtians. No Greek church has any, throughout the extent of their domination, and the caloyers make uſe of ſemi-circular ſuſpended iron hoops, on which they ſtrike, for the purpoſe of ſummoning their congregation to prayers.

The Greek church, which formerly reckoned among its members ſome men of great talents, and whoſe voluminous works contain numerous traits of beautiful eloquence, is fallen into the greateſt debaſement. The place of patriarch, who is her head, is abandoned to intrigue, and put up to auction. Nominated by the court of CONSTANTINOPLE, he is one of its moſt ſupple and moſt cringing courtiers. After having purchaſed his dignity, he purchaſes his tranquillity and his influence;

ence; to ſupport himſelf, he frequently ſtands in need of ſqueezing, in his turn, the prelates of his church; and, in order to obtain from them the ſums which he requires, he makes uſe of the arm and the violence of the Turks, who, to the exactions which they take on themſelves to levy, add others for their own private emolument. It is not aſtoniſhing, that the Turks ſhould have conceived a ſovereign contempt for people, who make of their religion an object of ſpeculation, and degrade their character by the moſt rapacious cupidity. To the ſentiment of contempt, ſo juſtly merited, is added, among the Muſſulmans, inextinguiſhable hatred againſt Chriſtians; and this cenſure is manifeſted, even in the letters patent, neceſſary for the inveſtiture of the patriarchate or of a biſhopric. Ingenious turns of expreſſion are not ſpared in it; but long habit, and, perhaps, ſome ſhade, leſs coarſe, of barbariſm, have blunted the traits of this ſort of rage; and the proviſions of the Greek church, no longer contain, in our days, the outrageous qualifications with which they were formerly filled.

There was communicated to me, as authentic, the Latin tranſlation of an ancient firman of the PORTE, for the nomination of a Greek

a Greek biſhop. It is a ſort of bull, extremely whimſical; it was put into my hands at CAIRO, by VENTURE and his father-in-law DIGEON, both French interpreters, or droguemans, who aſſured me of the truth of it; but, ſuppoſing that ſome exaggerations have been blended with it, this document gives not the leſs, on that account, an idea of the debaſement of the Greeks, and ſhews how odious they are to their tyrants; and though theſe firmans are, at preſent, leſs indecorous, we may, from the injurious terms which are there inſerted, judge of what they muſt have been, in fact, at a time when the fanaticiſm and ferociouſneſs of the Turks were in greater vigour.

The following, I have been told, is the ancient and truly ſingular protocol, which ſerved for the letters patent of the biſhops of the EAST:

Cum infidelium ——— epiſcopus quidam, nomine ——— fide reprobatus, et moribus diſſolutiſſimis à templo mundi, ad terram immundam tranſiviſſet, et nonnullis abhinc annis ipſius anima impura ab infami nido ſuo ad valles infernales advolaſſet, negotia vana vaniores epiſcopatûs ſuſpenſa remanſerunt; omnes ergo infideles, ſinguli monachi, cunctî patres impiiſſimi,

piiſſimi, univerſi ethnici congregârunt ſe; atque poſt varias deliberationes diabolicas, in hoc puncto convenerunt, ipſis nempè epiſcopum eſſe abſolutè neceſſarium, qui ipſemet reprobatus à Deo, et auxilio divino penitùs deſtitutus, auderet tamen illis auxilia divina ad promittere, qui peſſimus ipſe, illos etiam ad deteriora indueret, qui errans et hæreticus, per errores et hæreſes illos conducere poſſet, qui denique epiſcopatûs vanas functiones adminiſtrando, rectiùs et tutiùs ad infernum perduceret. Et ad hoc iidem infideles nobis propoſuerunt quemdam ——— exemplar malitiæ, prototypum iniquitatis, ſatanam incarne et cornibus inſtructum ſataneis, hominum emiſſarium Belzebuth, et fortaſſe ipſi ſuperiorem, vilem et abjectum, de quo dicetur à turbis hominum in die judicii, quando ſuper caput ejus ictus clavarum ferrearum ignearumque ſicut grando impluent : Ampliùs, Domini, ampliùs.

Cum verò ſuprà dictus monachus cujus dotes ſufficientur depinximus, ad quem iſta charta pertinet, cuique hâc ſolâ vice credatur, omnium ſui ordinis monachorum ſenior, id eſt, cumulans ſuos errores pertinaciâ, ignorantiam malitiæ maritans, jejunio multiplici, vanâ abſtinentiâ, ſterilibuſque mortificationibus ſe diabolorum corda contriturum arbitratus, vel ſaltem alios

ad

ad credendum inducens, neque vota ſibi imponendo nihil aliud faciens niſi torquem maledictionis collo ſuo in æternum ligare, religioſus ſine religione, et in viâ perditionis ſecuro gradu procedens, quem Deus adæquet die pœnarum et minarum, febrici ſudore, purulentâque vulneris gangrenâ vitali materiâ, lucifero diademate cinctus et piceis ornamentis indutus, omnibus infidelibus præſul datus et inventor novæ hæreſeos, epiſcopus denique nominatus eſt.

*Datum, &c. &c.**

At

* TRANSLATION.

As the biſhop of the infidels of ———, named ———, of reprobate faith and perverſe morals, has paſſed from the temple of this globe into an unclean land, and, for ſome years paſt, his impure ſoul having quitted its infamous priſon, in order to fly into the infernal gulfs, the vain affairs of a more vain biſhopric have remained in ſuſpenſe; all the infidels, all the monks, all the fathers of impiety, all the pagans, have aſſembled, and, after ſeveral diabolical deliberations, they have agreed on this ſingle point, that they were in want of a biſhop, who, himſelf accurſed of God, and abſolutely deprived of celeſtial ſuccour, would, nevertheleſs, venture to promiſe them divine aſſiſtance; who, depraved in himſelf, would induce them to commit ſtill more evil; who, bewildered in error and hereſy, might conduct them into other errors and other hereſies; who, in ſhort, fulfilling the vain functions of epiſcopacy, would drag them more directly and

At the convent of the TRINITY, we were not at the extremity of Cape MELECCA, and we reſolved to proceed towards that point, which is entirely formed of maſſes of rocks, heaped up into lofty mountains, and rent

more ſurely to hell. And, to this effect, the ſame infidels have propoſed to us one ————, an example of wickedneſs, a model of iniquity, a devil incarnate and bearing the horns of *Satan*, the meſſenger, and, perhaps, the outdoer of *Belzebub*; vile and abject, of whom the aſſemblies of men will ſay, on the day of judgment, when the blows of red-hot iron clubs ſhall fall like hail on his criminal head: *Still more, Lord, ſtill more.*

This above-mentioned monk, whoſe qualities have juſt been ſufficiently deſcribed, to whom theſe letters patent belong, and to whom credit is to be given on this occaſion only, the moſt ancient of his order, that is to ſay, accumulating with obſtinacy a crowd of errors; joining ignorance to malice; flattering himſelf to ſoften the ſoul of demons, by numerous faſts and ſteril mortifications, or, at leaſt, prevailing on others to believe ſo; doing nothing elſe, by impoſing on himſelf obligations by vows, but fixing on himſelf eternally the yoke of malediction; religious without religion, and walking with a firm ſtep in the path of perdition; whom may heaven, on the day of menace and chaſtiſement, cover with the ſweat of fever, and the infectious matter of gangrene, his brow, encircled by the diadem of *Lucifer*, and clothed with ornaments bedaubed with pitch, this monk, in ſhort, deſignated for preſiding over infidels, and for inventing new hereſies, has been appointed biſhop.

Done, &c. &c.

into

into profound precipices. At the very moment of our departure, I had like to have been left dead on the ſpot. When I was going to mount my horſe, not having taken the precaution to make uſe, like the Turks, of ſome elevation to get into the ſaddle, I ſet my foot in the ſtirrup in the European manner; but my horſe, being galled under the belly in the place of the girth, experiencing pain from the impreſſion of this girth, which the weight of my body occaſioned to move and preſs againſt his wound, reared up and fell upon me; my head pitched within leſs than two inches of the flight of ſtone-ſteps, and to this trifling diſtance was I indebted for not having been killed: but I experienced no injury; I remounted my horſe with greater precaution, and this little accident delayed not our departure a ſingle moment.

At a full half league from the convent of the TRINITY, in advancing towards the point of the promontory, acroſs roads, or rather paths made on blocks of ſtones, ſtands another convent dedicated to ST. JOHN. It is far leſs conſiderable than the former; this is alſo the work of the Venetians; but it has not been completed, and its conſtruction is

leſs advanced. This houſe would have been tolerably handſome, had it been finiſhed. We ſtopped there but a moment, becauſe it is by no means intereſting, unleſs for its ſituation on the moſt elevated pitch of the cape, whence the view extends to a great diſtance towards the ſea. But this enlarged horizon has not the agreeableneſs of the ſmiling plain, of the charming ſite of the convent of the TRINITY, and the mind is rather ſaddened than enlivened by the rocks by which one is ſurrounded.

Here we left our horſes, the paths ceaſing to be paſſable for them, and foot-paſſengers even having ſome difficulty in walking over mountains, entirely formed of gray marble, and ſo covered with it, as to leave but here and there intervals, in which grow a few plants and ſhrubs. We deſcended by a very difficult road, having beſide us frightful precipices, formed by the fiſſures of perpendicular mountains.

At the foot of one of theſe mountains is ſituated a little monaſtery, which alſo bears the name of *St. John*, and the diſtrict where it is built is called that of *Catholicos*. The deſcent to it is by a flight of one hundred and thirty-nine ſteps cut in the rock. This houſe

houſe has long been deſerted, on account of the frequent pillages to which it was expoſed on the part of pirates, who landed on the coaſt for the purpoſe of laying it under contribution.

On the coaſt of the chapel of this convent, which is falling into ruins, is the entrance of a grotto*. We each entered with a flambeau in our hand, and conducted by a monk, belonging to the great convent of St. John. A guide is neceſſary to ſtrangers, who wiſh to penetrate into this excavation formed by Nature, in order that they may not be expoſed to falling headlong into ſome abyſs. The grotto is ſpacious, and a perſon may eaſily proceed there nearly a mile, before he arrives at the extremity; it runs horizontally into the boſom of the mountain. An infinite number of pillars of ſtalactites, which aſſume all ſorts of forms, and ſome of which are of a prodigious ſize, ſeem intended for ſupporting the roof. In the ſpace which is between theſe pillars, the work of a ſlow filtration of the waters, and of the ſtony ſubſtances that they have brought with them,

* *Tournefort* makes no mention of this grotto, although he viſited the ſame diſtrict.

are found other maſſes, which ages have, in like manner, elaborated, ſome of which hang from the roof of the grotto, and others riſe from the ground: they all have different forms. Among theſe may be diſcovered porticoes, heads, tubes ſlender as quills, and other figures, whoſe great variety and number produce a very agreeable effect. You walk over a large piece of fallen ſtalactites, the extremity of which is a perfect repreſentation of the head of a hog. In the midſt of theſe ſports of chance, the imagination has a vaſt field for conjectures and fictions.

The colour of the ſtalactites of the grotto of CATHOLICOS is, in general, yellowiſh, dull, and opake, like almoſt all concretions of this nature; but ſome are alſo ſeen of a dazzling white, whoſe beauty ſurpaſſes alabaſter of the fineſt poliſh. In a little time, means might be found to detach pieces of it of no inconſiderable ſize, and fit for forming very beautiful works. Although extremely hard, theſe ſtalactites eaſily break, which renders them very difficult to be worked. On ſtriking them with a hammer, they emit ſparks, produced by the vitreous particles which the waters have brought down, and

and blended with the calcareous ſubſtances of which they are compoſed.

The rains had cooled the atmoſphere to ſuch a degree as to cauſe us to experience a ſlight ſenſation of cold. In the grotto, on the contrary, we felt a powerful heat; and we were there ſoon covered with ſweat, though we had left moſt of our clothes at the entrance. On my firſt journey to this place, I had experienced quite the reverſe; it was very warm without, and the cold was very ſharp in the grotto. That was in the month of June, and we were now there in November.

Near the grotto there is, on one ſide, a well of excellent water; and on the other ſide, but a little farther on, a receſs, where bones are piled up. They are probably thoſe of the monks who inhabited the convent. Oppoſite, a very handſome bridge, fifty feet in height, of a ſingle arch, and ſubſtantially built, joins the two mountains, and croſſes the narrow and deep valley by which they are ſeparated. On the declivity of this other mountain are ſeen ſome natural excavations, which ſerved as obſcure and pious abodes to ancient anchorites.

No ſolitude can be imagined more perfect, and at the ſame time more wild, without being

ing hideous, than that in which is ſituated the little convent of St. John. Surrounded by perpendicular mountains, briſtling with naked rocks, whoſe melancholy and arid uniformity is interrupted by the foliage of a few ſhrubs inclined on their ſurface, the man who inhabits it is concealed from all the world; the enormous curtains which ſeem to envelop him, leave him only a view of the ſky. In ſafety on the brink of a frightful precipice, the bridge, whoſe top is flat, and a little platform made before the houſe, afford him the means of taking a walk, which is ſufficient for moderate exerciſe and meditation: the eye, in following the torrent or the precipice which exiſts between the two mountains, diſcovers the ſea as through a viſta; and this proſpect affords a change to reveries and ſilent occupations. But, it muſt be confeſſed, religion or philoſophy can alone find charms in a rugged and ſolitary nook, which inſulates man from other men, and leaves him no intercourſe but with the Divinity and himſelf.

Covies of red partridges delight in theſe inacceſſible mountains, and there they live in ſafety. There, alſo, are to be ſeen wild goats, which leap from rock to rock with admirable

admirable address and agility. These wild goats, which are to be met with in the Isle of CANDIA, and several other islands of the same sea, are of the bouquetin*, or mountain goat species. The modern Greeks, as has been done by their ancestors, confound the *bouquetin* and the *chamois* under the same denomination of *wild goat*. The French, habituated to the LEVANT, also knew them by no other denomination than that of *chevre sauvage*. It is to be presumed, in fact, that BUFFON himself imagined that these two animals are not of a species different from that of the domestic goat.

I quitted with regret the solitude of CATHOLICOS. The silence of nature, the sort of terror inspired by the gloomy scenery of the situation, the vicinity of dark caverns, whence gulfs, in which no man ever penetrated, extend into the bosom of the earth, together with the remains, half-decomposed, of the ancient inhabitants of this desert, had involved me in a religious reverie, and plunged me into a profound melancholy. Absorbed in my thoughts, I was not aware

* *Bouquetin*, BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Quadrupèdes, edition de SONNINI, tome XIX.—*Capra ibex*. LINN.

of

of the fatigue that is experienced in aſcending the flight of ſteps by which we had arrived; and I was not rouſed from my diſtraction till the moment when my companions gave me notice to quit the path, in order to viſit a ſmall houſe inhabited by a ſingle caloyer.

On one ſide is a grotto or cavern, the arched roof of which is very lofty, but which is no great depth. Juſt on entering, one is ſtruck by the reſemblance of a bear, formed by a very large block of ſtalactites. Pocock, who viſited this cavern, ſays that there are alſo to be ſeen here ſeveral hunters, in like manner formed of ſtalactites, who ſeem to attack the bear*; but theſe figures of hunters have probably been deſtroyed, for there are now no veſtiges of them.

After having remounted our horſes at the great convent of St. John, we went to ſleep at that of the Trinity; and the next day we purſued our route to Canea. We paſſed near *Acrotiri*, a convent of nuns: farther on, we ſtopped a few moments at the country-houſe of a Turk, a friend to the French; we were there extremely well received. Coffee,

* Travels in the East, &c. book ii. chap. xvii.

pipes,

pipes, ſherbet, were preſented to us with cordjality; and we took leave of this honeſt Muſſulman, who had been a great traveller, at the ſame time expreſſing our wiſhes that his countrymen might partake of his humanity and civilization.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XIX.

Harbour of Canea.—*Danger incurred by the Author in giving aſſiſtance to a* Barbary. *corſair.—Situation of this corſair.—*Sant Odero. *—Harbour of* Suda.—*Game.—Shell-fiſh.—Sea-urchins.—Sardines, or ſprats.—Road from* Suda *to* Canea.—*Lepers.—Romeca, a dance of the Greeks.—Apothecary of* Canea. *—Signs of liberty.*

WHEN we are to ſpeak of the harbours which are in the hands of the Turks, we are forced to repeat inceſſantly, and to deſcribe, for each of them, the ſame negligence, the ſame barbarous apathy, which coolly ſuffer to fall into decay thoſe great baſins which nature and art had formed, in order to promote commerce and public proſperity. At CANEA are again found the vices of adminiſtration, and the indifference, which are to be remarked, wherever we land, on the immenſe extent of coaſt, become, for the misfortune of the people who inhabit it, the property of

of the Muſſulmans. No precaution, no police, no mean of repair and preſervation is there employed; the proceſs of cleanſing a port, by means of lighters, is unknown; ſhips throw overboard, with impunity, every thing that embarraſſes them, and not unfrequently a part of their ballaſt. The bottom riſes, and is covered by foreign bodies, dangerous for the cables; the baſin is choked up; it can ſcarcely admit veſſels of two hundred tons burden; the arſenal, and the fine docks for ſhip-building, which the Venetians had conſtructed there, are falling into ruins, and are no longer in a condition to be made uſe of; and the Turkiſh government beholds, with a ſtupid eye, the powerful promoters of its ſtrength and wealth thus decaying.

Expoſed to the north winds, the entrance of the harbour is difficult when they blow with violence; then veſſels do not enter the gulf, at the head of which this entrance is ſituated; but, if once they have run into it during theſe northerly gales, it is no longer poſſible for them to get out of it, and they are obliged to ſteer for the very narrow mouth of the harbour, where the waves collect in heaps, and frequently riſe high enough to clear

clear the mole, and to ſpread and break in the baſin.

I do not recollect, without terror, the dangers which ſeveral French ſeamen and myſelf incurred, in giving aſſiſtance to a veſſel which had imprudently got into the Gulf of CANEA, during the night, and in a very ſtrong gale of wind from the northward. It was nine o'clock in the evening, the night was extremely dark, the wind furious, and the ſea roared againſt the mole in a terrible manner. I was on board a French merchant-veſſel, at anchor in the harbour: the three captains with whom I had made the exurſion to Cape MELECCA had aſſembled on board this ſhip, in order to give me a ſupper. Reports of cannon, repeated at certain intervals, were heard in the offing; their hollow and deep ſound added to the gloomy horror inſpired by the noiſe of the raging winds and waves. Fires kindled at the top of the light-houſe, which ſtands at the entrance of the harbour, ſpread their agitated light over this ſcene of confuſion and fury in the contending elements. Such was the only aſſiſtance that could be procured in a place where there neither are pilots, nor perſons appointed to ſuperintend the harbours. Reports of guns, the ſignal of

of danger and diſtreſs, ſucceeded each other with rapidity. French merchant-ſhips being at that time very numerous in the ſeas of the LEVANT, there was every reaſon to believe that the veſſel, whoſe repeated calls for aſſiſtance we heard, was of that deſcription. The determination of expoſing themſelves in order to ſave their fellow-citizens, companions, or friends, was inſtantly taken by the captains with whom I was ſupping. They manned the largeſt long-boat belonging to the three veſſels, and the ſtouteſt of their ſailors were ordered to be ſelected for this expedition. I choſe to accompany my entertainers, and we pulled out of the harbour, having to ſtruggle againſt the wind and waves, which came with violence directly againſt us, and oppoſed our progreſs. We were more than once on the point of being ſwamped. At length, after conſiderable difficulty and danger, we arrived near a veſſel which was lying to, and ſuffering herſelf to be drifted towards the mole. A tier of guns run out ſoon made us perceive that we were not approaching a merchant-ſhip; and when we got on board, we found that we were on the deck of a BARBARY corſair belonging to TRIPOLI.

Although the commander of this veſſel was a tolerably good ſeaman, he had not been able to perſuade his crew to manœuvre ſo as to enter the harbour of CANEA. A few men only had conſented to remain on deck, and the reſt kept quietly in the waiſt, ſmoking their pipe, as if they had been in the ſituation the leaſt expoſed. Our arrival gave freſh energy to the commander of the corſair, a rough and ferocious pirate. In any other circumſtances, he would not have ſpoken to us but with brutality. Danger had rendered him mild and obſequious: he called us his friends and brothers; he conjured us to ſhare among ourſelves the command of his ſhip, and ſave her from deſtruction; he reſerved for his people all the violence of his character, and, with a ſtick in his hand, forced them to come on deck. At laſt the fore-ſail alone was ſet; and we contrived, without any accident, to caſt anchor in the harbour. The BARBARY free-booter, who had manifeſted ſo much joy at receiving aſſiſtance when he was in danger, expreſſed no farther acknowledgment when he had eſcaped from it; and, by his groſs ingratitude, very worthy of a barbarous pirate, he induced brave ſeamen, who had expoſed themſelves

ſelves to great perils, in order to preſerve him from them, to repent of their generous action.

In the gulf, and to the weſt of the harbour, a ſmall iſland, named *Sant Odero*, or *St. Theodore*, on which the Venetians had built a caſtle, now entirely demoliſhed, affords a tolerably good anchorage for large ſhips: however, they avail themſelves of it but very ſeldom, and prefer entering the harbour of Suda, where they are in much greater ſafety. Cape Melecca forms the weſt part, and Cape *Trapani*, formerly *Drepanum*, the eaſt ſide of this narrow gulf, which penetrates nearly two leagues inland: it was probably the *Amphimale* of the ancients. Hiſtorians are not agreed on this point. Others place the harbour of *Amphimale* between Suda and Retimo, where there is, however, only a very bad haven; and the latter make of Cape Melecca, the Cape *Drepanum* of the ancients. It ſeems to me, that the opinion which I adopt is the moſt rational, and the moſt conformable to the ſtate of the places.

At the entrance of the great Bay of Suda, and ſheltered by Cape Melecca, is an iſlet a quarter of a league in circuit. A fortreſs,

which remained for a long time in the hands of the Venetians, even after they had loſt the Iſland of CANDIA, defends this important harbour, which Nature has formed, and which is one of the fineſt and moſt ſpacious in the MEDITERRANEAN: the moſt numerous fleet may there be aſſembled. Ships may caſt anchor under the fortreſs, but they are not in ſafety; whereas, by running up as far as the coaſt which terminates the bay, and which is called *LA CULATE*, they are perfectly ſheltered. This harbour has, nevertheleſs, the inconvenience of affording no anchorage but at LA CULATE itſelf: there are no ſoundings throughout the remainder of its length, ſo that frequently ſhips are detained there for a conſiderable time, in expectation of a favourable wind for leaving it.

There are no habitations on the coaſt which forms this bright; the place is ſolitary, and no other amuſement is to be enjoyed there but that of ſhooting. The uncultivated and rocky hills, with which the bay is ſurrounded, abound with game; partridges, quails, and hares, are there common; and a moraſs, which is at the extremity, is generally full of ſnipes and waterhens. The ſea there alſo abounds with fiſh;

in

in particular, ſardines, or ſprats, are there taken in great quantities. The ſtones waſhed by the ſea contain numbers of dactyls; other ſhell-fiſh are alſo to be ſeen; and ſea-urchins, which, on the coaſt of this part of the Iſland of CANDIA, are more delicate than elſewhere, have multiplied to ſuch a degree, that whole boat-loads of them are brought to CANEA.

From LA CULATE to CANEA the diſtance is reckoned a league: the plain which leads thither is fertile and agreeable, and the traveller feels a pleaſure in croſſing fields adorned with the riches of culture, or enamelled with flowers which grow there ſpontaneouſly. But, on approaching the town, a diſguſting ſpectacle ſuddenly changes the pleaſurable ſenſations which had been produced by theſe ſmiling pictures. The ſoul is harrowed up, the ſenſes are painfully affected, at the ſight of the huts which line the road. Theſe are the aſylums of perſons of both ſexes, eaten up by that horrible and contagious diſeaſe of the ſkin which ſtill exerciſes its ravages in ſome parts of the EAST, and which the cruſades had introduced into EUROPE, where we have ſucceeded in getting rid of it.

The leproſy ſtill infects one of the fineſt countries of the EAST. This diſorder was anciently known to the Greeks, who called it *lepra*, and the Jews were very ſubject to its ravages. It ſtill acts with ſome degree of virulence on the inhabitants of the Iſland of CANDIA: the Turks and Greeks are alike afflicted by it, and it attacks the rich as well as the poor. I make this remark, becauſe SAVARY has affirmed that perſons in affluence were not ſubject to the leproſy*. He, doubtleſs, did not recollect that, when we were together at CANEA, the ſon of an opulent aga, ſtill young, and a very handſome man, was a victim to this loathſome diſorder.

Lepers are obliged to quit the town, and dwell in a hut, where they are prohibited from all communication with healthful perſons. They there live on the produce of a ſmall garden adjoining to their cottage, on poultry which they rear, and on the alms of paſſengers. No ſooner do they perceive any one, than they advance in order to implore pity; and their approach cauſes the moſt violent diſguſt. Their face, as well as their body, is ſwelled by reddiſh and ſcaly blotches,

* *Lettres ſur la Grèce.* Lettre xxxiii.

and

and eroded by puſtules; their aſpect is hideous, and one haſtens to throw them ſome money, in order to get away from them. Hatred to Europeans has taken ſuch deep root in the heart of Muſſulmans, that unfortunate Turks, confined in the encloſure intended for lepers, inſulted us all, at the ſame time aſking charity of us. How frequently have I not heard myſelf thus addreſſed: "*Pray, infidel, dog, give me a para!*"

Who would imagine that Love ſhould alſo eſtabliſh his throne in the midſt of ſo horrible and diſguſting an aſſociation? Intimate connexions are contracted between the wretches of which it is compoſed; the ſharpneſs of their humours provokes their paſſion, or, to ſpeak more correctly, their brutality; its effects are exceſſive; they are under no reſtraint; ſeparated from the reſt of mankind, they diſdain every ſort of reſerve. In the open day, they are ſeen indulging in their voluptuous tranſports; and they ceaſe not to laviſh on each other theſe horrible careſſes, till the moment when, ſinking under the diſorder which overwhelms them, they drop to pieces, decompoſed by long and complete putrefaction.

By the ſide of this melancholy heap of men in prey, while yet living, to a general corruption, is exhibited, from time to time, another ſpectacle, which cauſes no leſs horror. It is on the edge of this ſame road, which leads to the only gate that CANEA has on the land ſide, that criminals, who have undergone the terrible puniſhment of empalement, are expoſed. They are ranged on each ſide of the road; and in this dreadful rank are ſeen men whoſe body is longitudinally tranſpierced by a ſtake, ſome dead, others expiring; ſome ſmoking their pipe, with as much ſang-froid as if they were ſitting on cuſhions, railing at the Europeans, and living, as long as twenty-four hours, in the moſt excruciating torments. But let us turn aſide our eyes from theſe objects, which inſpire pity and horror, and direct them to images leſs revolting. I beheld, for the firſt time, in a field near CANEA, the *Romeca*, a dance mingled with ſinging, which the preſent Greeks have received from their anceſtors, and which they have preſerved nearly in all its details. Leſs conſtant in our taſtes, as well as in our pleaſures, by what a multiplicity of changes have they not varied? And who could give the enumeration of all the

the ſpecies of dances which have ſucceeded each other among us, only within theſe two centuries?

The dance of the Greeks of CANDIA is not deſtitute of ſimplicity and nobleneſs. According to the opinion of an ineſtimable writer*, it is the moſt ancient of all: HOMER has deſcribed it†, and it is the image of the labyrinth of CRETE, of which it imitates the turnings and windings. The antiquity of this dance has, indeed, ſomething impoſing; but, if we conſider it without prepoſſeſſion, we find in it a ſerious and grave turn, too remote from the gaiety which we expect to meet with in rural hops. Their ſongs have not more vivacity; they are ſlow and languid; and the habit which the Greeks have of ſinging through the noſe, renders their ſongs ſtill more drawling and leſs ſprightly.

I ſaw the Candiot dance conducted by a Greek, who, after having ſtudied ſome time at PADUA, had ſet up as an apothecary at CANEA. This man, who was elderly, very tall, thin, meagre, and lank, intro-

* GUYS *Lettres ſur la Grèce*, Letter xiii.

† Iliad, book xviii. and ſee POPE's verſion, line 657.

duced

duced into his ſteps and his ſinging a gravity which had ſomething truly riſible; and his ſnuffling tone was very unpleaſant, at the ſame time that his ſtern countenance formed a very ſtriking contraſt with the beautiful perſons, the roſy complexion, the ſweet ſmile, and the large and expreſſive black eyes, of the young girls who compoſed the dance.

This apothecary, an intelligent and eſtimable man, lived under the protection of FRANCE, and he was much attached to our nation. He wore a long robe in the Greek ſtyle; but, in lieu of the cap or calotte of his countrymen, his head was covered with a large cocked hat, a ſign of the liberty which he enjoyed. The different marks of the emancipation of men are deſerving of notice. Here, the cap is reckoned to be the indication of it; elſewhere, it is the hat. People are not better agreed, as to theſe ſigns of liberty, than as to liberty itſelf; and men have never been leſs free than when, by vain exterior marks, it has been meant to perſuade them that they were ſo.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XX.

Gardens of the Iſland of Candia.—*Compariſon between thoſe gardens and ours.—Corn and agriculture.—Olive-trees.—Plane-trees.—Orange-trees, &c.—Deſcription of the groves formed by different ſpecies of trees.—Acacia.—Jaſmine.—Colocaſia.—Fruit-trees.—Birds.—Solitary black-bird.—Flowers.—Shrubs.—Aromatic Plants.—Dittany.*

TRAVELLERS have taken a pleaſure in deſcribing in their narratives, as places replete with charms, the gardens which are in the vicinity of the town of CANEA. SAVARY, in particular, has delighted in painting them; and he has employed, in this picture, the moſt delicate touches of his pencil, and the moſt brilliant colours of his pallet. They are, indeed, very agreeable; but, like the gardens of the other parts of the EAST, they by no means reſemble ours; and we ſhould be diſ-

appointed, if, on entering them, we expected to find there compartments, ſymmetry, order in the plantations, regularity in the ſeed-plots, ſtraight alleys, in ſhort, all the acceſſories which accompany the elegant uniformity of our encloſures. Theſe, properly ſpeaking, are orchards, groves, clumps of foliage, which the ſhears reſpect, and which are ſurrounded by groups of fruit-trees; ſpaces covered with vegetables, or decorated with flowers; other leguminous plants, other flowers ſcattered, and, as if thrown by chance, grow between the trees and ſhrubs; the line there is an implement uſeleſs to the gardener; he makes no more uſe of it than of the pruning-knife; paths, rather than walks, wind under the ſhade of theſe little woods. The hand of man, which is obſervable in our orchards and parterres, even when we ſtrive to conceal it, by endeavouring to circumſcribe and reduce around us the diverſified ſcenes of Nature, is, in a manner, imperceptible in theſe confuſed aſſemblages of a multitude of various plants. But this appearance of confuſion, which is truly the ſymmetry of Nature, is not without its agreeableneſs. Magnificence ſprings from the boſom of the arts; but the pomp of luxury which aſtoniſhes,

which

which dazzles, produces only the pride of the ſenſes. Not one of thoſe ſenſations which pleaſe the heart, ſatisfy it, and procure it pure and ſweet enjoyments, is to be found in our confined and noiſy walks, in the midſt of the elegant and ſtiff deſigns of our parterres, of rows of trees, planted and trimmed in a workman-like manner, of the decorations of luxury, of laborious and expenſive efforts of waters, ſpouting into the air, or pent up between the ſtraight borders of a canal, the two extremities of which the eye embraces, or falling again, at no ſmall coſt, on ſteps; a very contracted image of the majeſtic caſcades, whence rivers precipitate their foaming waves. Let the proud citizen, whoſe contracted heart ſighs only after frivolous pleaſures and factitious and barren enjoyments, not forſake the encloſures of opulence and monotony; let him not enter into theſe ſolitary receſſes, which have not coſt heaps of gold, and of which Nature has defrayed all the expenſe. He is too unmindful of her to reliſh her charms, and he would experience nothing but diſguſt in places which are conſecrated to her, and which ſhe has taken pains to embelliſh.

You,

You, who, ſurrounded by the tumultuous corruption of our manners, have found means to preſerve yourſelves from the inſatiable thirſt of riches, which dries up the ſources of honourable ſentiments; who have avoided ambitious immorality, near which every idea of generoſity and true greatneſs are ſtifled; you, who, ſimple in your taſtes, in your habits, your affections, have not run after brilliant chimeras, and ſacrificed to vices, the idols of ſociety; you, whoſe ſenſibility has preſerved its delicacy, approach, I am going to conduct you towards one of thoſe ſpots in the Iſland of CRETE, which, according to our ideas, ought not to bear the name of gardens.

We are in one of the beautiful plains in the environs of CANEA. Firſt, remark all the ſigns of fertility, ſpread over this land, happy from the abundance of its various productions. Fields in culture promiſe rich harveſts. Other plains, equally fruitful, are frequently met with in the iſland; Plenty had there, in like manner, fixed herſelf; but the tyrannic government which oppreſſes this country, has been ſufficiently powerful to expel it; ſeveral diſtricts have remained uncultivated; various ſpecies of corn, which furniſhed the ſubſiſtence

ſubſiſtence of a population more numerous than it is in our days, and was a branch of exterior commerce, are now inſufficient; and often is ſeen arriving in the harbours, grain deſtined for filling up the forced intervals of culture, on a ſoil ever ready to repay the laborious advances of the huſbandman. You will doubtleſs repeat with me, "Woe and ruin to the tyrants, to whom "agriculture is an object of indifference and "perſecution!"

Behold thoſe great trees which form a ſort of foreſts; they are olive trees: under a climate, a ſtranger to the ſevere cold of our winters, they periſh only from age. Theſe uſeful trees are loaded with a prodigious quantity of fruit, from which is expreſſed oil, an important branch of the commerce of CRETE, but it is there badly manufactured; the inhabitants are ignorant of the art of refining it, and rendering it agreeable to the taſte; and the Europeans purchaſe it only for their ſoap-houſes and other manufactories.

Farther on, are plane-trees, which attain a conſiderable height, and cover a large ſpace with their thick foliage. They acquire a prodigious growth; their branches extend afar; the ſun cannot penetrate through a multitude of

of obſtacles, which are oppoſed to its rays by the accumulated ſurfaces of their broad leaves. The obſcurity which reigns at the foot of theſe coloſſuſſes of Nature, has ſomething noble, but at the ſame time too gloomy; and one cannot penetrate into it without a ſort of tremor.

But here we are in one of thoſe gardens which bear ſo little reſemblance to ours. What a charming ſhade we are under!..... You recogniſe thoſe trees which our art cannot ſuffer to grow at liberty, which we impriſon in our green-houſes during half the year, and which all our pains preſerve only in a ſtate of languor. With what vigour they grow here in a ſubſtantial ground, which the hoar-froſts never deprive of a gentle warmth! Their boughs extend and intertwine without conſtraint; no one thinks of mutilating them, for the purpoſe of giving them a regular outline; they are not of a ſpherical form, whoſe ſurface preſents only truncated branches and leaves half cut, without ſhade, without grace, and almoſt always without fruit. See how the branches of the latter are loaded with large cluſters of flowers and fine fruits. But that orchard, which flatters the ſenſes in ſo agreeable a manner, is not en-

tirely formed of trees bearing the ſweet orange. You will there find the bitter orange, lemons, and citrons. The almond-tree, the pomegranate-tree with purple fruit, mingle their boughs and their ſhade; and, under theſe rich arbours, the humble violet is likewiſe to be remarked for its beautiful and modeſt dreſs, and from the ſweet perfume which it exhales.

The great rivulet which you ſaw in the plain, and whoſe winding banks are covered with myrtles and oleanders, has been divided into ſeveral branches. Its ſilvery waters, flowing without conſtraint in little canals, which have the irregularity of thoſe formed by Nature, bring coolneſs under bowers already ſo agreeably ſhaded. Here, no troubleſome crowd comes to rouſe you from the ſweet reveries to which you are invited, by the delightful tint of obſcurity of theſe balmy places. Here, you may wander alone; friendſhip, love may accompany you, and nothing diſtracts you from the intimacy of the communications of the one, nor from the tranſports and effuſions of the other. Do you conceive that it is poſſible to imagine retreats more captivating, ſolitudes more propitious to love? The ſilence which here reigns, a myſterious ſhade, the ſweeteſt perfumes, every

thing gently agitates the ſenſes, every thing diſpoſes to ſenſibility, and to its ſweeteſt emotions. Under the ſame climate, in a country not very remote, but in retreats leſs agreeable, I alſo felt thoſe tender agitations..... But I was not long happy; jealous fate ſnatched me from ſweet tranſports. There are men born for misfortune, whom a fatal deſtiny purſues, whoſe ſoul is inceſſantly in prey to the moſt poignant pains: alas! I am of that number.....Excuſe me, my tears flow; but they are as much the effect of tender and delightful recollections, as of the expreſſion of my ſorrow.

Leguminous plants lie more particularly on that ſide; but, in order to diſpel from theſe places every thing that can recall the idea of monotony, ſeveral trees have been planted in the midſt of theſe little diviſions, which we cannot call compartments. The acacia, with cluſters of yellow flowers, perfumes them with its ſweet emanations; with what vigour it grows in this land of fecundity! I had already ſeen it embelliſh the balmy groves of ROSETTA, where the Arabs call it *ſeiſſuban*; here the Greeks give it the name of *gazie**. Here are buſhes of Arabian

* *Mimoſa farneſiana.* LINN.—*Ang.* Farneſian fragrant acacia.

jaſmine,

jaſmine, whoſe powerful, but agreeable odour, is ſoftened by its mixture with that of the other flowers by which they are ſurrounded. The branches of theſe beautiful jaſmines become ſufficiently long and thick, and grow alſo ſufficiently ſtraight, to be perforated throughout their length, and form large pipe-ſtems, highly eſteemed in TURKEY.

Melons, cucumbers grow pell-mell among the pot-herbs; layers, glaſſes, either in frame or in the ſhape of bells, are uſeleſs on an excellent ſoil which is never deprived of heat. You are not acquainted with that tall plant with large leaves; it is a beautiful ſpecies of arum, called colocaſia, or great Egyptian arum*. In this iſland, as in EGYPT, where it has in like manner been cultivated from time immemorial, its roots are dreſſed, which have pretty much the taſte of our potatoes.

Groups of fruit-trees riſe above theſe uſeful plants. You recogniſe the apple tree, the pear-tree, the ſmall cherry-tree, the walnut-tree, the fig-tree, &c.; but the fruits of the greater part of theſe trees are of a quality

* *Arum maximum Ægyptiacum, quod vulgo colocaſia*—C. Bauhin. Pin. 193.—*Arum colocaſia*.—LINN. The Egyptians call it *coulcaſs*.

very inferior to thoſe which grow in our country. It is not the fault of the ſoil, nor of the climate; but the inhabitants are ignorant of the art of varying the forms and the flavour of fruits, and of making the ſtem, which ſupports them, bear foreign ones. Grafting, which would here yield delicious productions, is not in uſe, and we ſee here none but trees which we call *ſauvageons*, or wild ſtocks, becauſe they are ſuch as they were produced by Nature. Your eyes dwell on that ſpecies of apricot-tree, which has, in fact, ſome affinity to ours, but which is unknown in EUROPE. This tree is peculiar to the warm countries of the EAST; it is common in SYRIA and in EGYPT; in CANDIA it no longer has the ſame flavour that it acquires in thoſe countries; grafting would render it ſtill more agreeable, and its fruit would become larger. I know not what name the Greeks of CANDIA give to that ſmall apricot; in SYRIA and in EGYPT the Arabs call it *miſchmiſch**. It is there dried, and afterwards dreſſed with different kinds of viands: this is one of the diſhes which are there moſt

* *Prunus Armeniaca, miſjmiſj.* Forſkal. Flor. Egypt. Arab. page 67.

commonly

commonly ſerved up at the table of the rich.

In theſe enchanted groves, you probably expected to meet with a multitude of little birds, which have made them their habitual abode and the domain of their loves. Here they live in perfect ſecurity; man diſturbs not their union, nor the repoſe of their riſing family; he endeavours not to attract them, nor to ſurpriſe them in cruel ſnares. Neither can we conſider as uſeleſs beings thoſe amiable gueſts, which, from their variegated colours, their ſinging, and their movements, are not one of the ſmalleſt attractions of theſe orchards; they pay for the ſweet tranquillity that they are ſuffered to enjoy, by devouring a number of inſects hurtful to plants, and which multiply with the more abundance under a ſky ever temperate. In this mixture of various ſpecies you will diſtinguiſh the linnet, the nightingale, the petty-chap, the gold-finch, the chaffinch, the bull-finch, the titmouſe, &c. You love to behold again the birds which ſurround and enliven our rural habitation. But liſten a moment; do you hear, on the agreſtic and uninhabited ſummits of the mountains, which crown the charming plain where we are, ſoft and melodious ſounds that are echoed among the rocks? They are pro-

duced by a ſcarcer bird, the ſolitary black-bird†. How thoſe ſonorous, but ſweet and languiſhing tones flatter the ear, and penetrate the ſoul diſpoſed to a ſweet melancholy! The Greeks give to this bird, whoſe ſinging fills the deſerts, the name of *petro-cockiſo*, bird of the rocks, and the Turks that of *kujabout-boul*, which ſignifies nightingale of the rock. Its brilliant warbling occaſions it to be in requeſt in the great towns of TURKEY, where it coſts as much as a hundred dollars, that is, about two hundred and twenty-five livres of our money.

For enriching and perfuming ſuch charming retreats, it was not enough that innumerable cluſters of flowers ſhould hang above the ground; its ſurface is alſo, in a manner, ſtrewn with them. You admire their brilliant colour and dazzling variety. They are, nevertheleſs, only plants natural to the iſland, and foreign lands have not been laid under contribution for this elegant decoration. With the exception of a few ſhades more lively and a part more regular, for which they are indebted to a ſlight degree

* *Le merle ſolitaire.* BUFFON. Hiſt. Nat. des Oiſeaux.—*Turdus cyanus.* LINN.

of

of culture and to the choice of theſoil, theſe flowers ſhine with equal luſtre in the midſt of the verdure of the plains, and on the declivity of the hills. By extending our walk beyond the limits of this garden, with which I have juſt made you acquainted, you will ſee ſcattered the ſame flowers that are there aſſembled. It is principally from the Iſland of CANDIA that our floriſts have procured the beautiful ſpecies of ranunculuſſes and anemones, which conſtitute the ornament of our parterres. Whole plains are enamelled with narciſſuſſes; lilies, tuberoſes, hyacinths, roſes, ſaffron, orchis of uncommon beauty, preſent themſelves at every ſtep.

You muſt not imagine that the oleanders and myrtles, the ornaments of the rivulet which we have croſſed, have there been planted, and do not grow ſpontaneouſly. The former are to be met with wherever there are running waters, and in all cool places; and the ſhrub conſecrated to Love there forms hedges, thickets, &c. and both are ſo common that they might almoſt be conſidered as the brambles of the country. Other ſhrubs cover the hills and the rocks with their elegant foliage, and embelliſh them with their flowers. You there diſtinguiſh

a pretty ſpecies of holly, which the Greeks call *kadomelas* or *koudomalia**, together with the medlar, the buckthorn, the trefoil-tree, &c.

Theſe clumps, which Nature has diſtributed with ſo much grace, are intermingled with aromatic plants, ſuch as common thyme, creeping or wild thyme, ſage, marjoram, ſavory, &c. &c. Their ſmell, as well as their verdure, is blended and confounded; it impregnates the air with delightful emanations. You ſee how the famous fraxinella or dittany of CRETE, celebrated by the ancients, clothes with profuſion the rocks on which we are walking. The peaſants collect it, and make it into ſmall bundles of the ſize of the fiſt, tying it with ruſh; theſe they bring to the market of CANEA and other towns, where this plant is much eſteemed by the preſent inhabitants. Its balſamic odour is preſerved for a great length of time: I have ſtill remaining ſome of this dittany, which I brought home from my travels in CANDIA, and which, for upwards of twenty years paſt, has ſcarcely loſt any of its ſmell, or of its virtues. It is a vulnerary, and an excellent ſtomachic; I have

* *Meſpilus apii folio lucido elegantius laciniato.* TOURN.

ſeen

ſeen very good effects from it, and I have made uſe of it with great ſucceſs on ſeveral occaſions.

So great an abundance of ſalutary plants renders the climate of CANDIA the moſt healthful in the world. HIPPOCRATES ſent hither his patients to breathe the air, charged with wholeſome vapours, and I would adviſe you alſo to fix your abode here, could this beautiful country ceaſe to be polluted by the preſence and domination of the barbarians, who have ſnatched it from the hands of civilized people.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XXI.

Turks and Greeks of Candia.—*Women.*—*Climate.*—*Agriculture.*—*Olive-trees.*—*Cotton.*—*Mulberry-tree.*—*Seſamum.*—*Wines.*—*Foreſts.*—*Rock-roſe.*—*Ladanum.*—*Horſes.*—*Dogs.*—*Turkiſh Dog.*—*Hogs.*—*A female Greek villager.*—*Bees, honey, and wax.*—*Cauſes of the riſe in the price of wax, and means of preventing it.*

UNDER a ſky which the father of phyſic conſidered as the reſtorer of the health of mankind, the human ſpecies muſt naturally have partaken of ſo happy an influence. This, in fact, is what ſtrikes the obſerver, as ſoon as he lands in the Iſland of CANDIA. The Turks, whoſe race is already ſo handſome, have there acquired a taller ſtature, muſcles more prominent and more ſtrongly marked, broader cheſt and ſhoulders, all the proportions which conſtitute beauty and ſtrength, together with an impoſing ſtep

and carriage; but, through all theſe advantages, which we could not but with to admire, the ſternneſs of their countenance gives to their majeſtic exterior a formidable impreſſion. This ſort of brilliant acquiſition, which the Turks have made in CANDIA, though general among them is not ſo with the Greeks of that iſland. Of a ſtature leſs tall, a corpulence leſs prominent, a ſtep leſs ſolemn, a make leſs robuſt, but moregraceful, this people appear to have degenerated under a climate which is natural to them, and in which they are abandoned to ſlavery, which alike degrades both the form of the body and that of the mind.

And this ſame diſparity in the exterior attributes of the Turk and the Greek is alſo met with among the women of thoſe two nations. The Turkiſh women are there handſomer than in the other parts of the EAST; whereas the female Greeks have, generally ſpeaking, fewer charms, than they poſſeſs in ſeveral other countries. This fact is worthy of attention; it does not appear eaſy to aſſign its cauſe. How happens it that a temperature ſo favourable to the fine and vigorous conſtitution of foreigners has not, or at leaſt appears not to have, any influence on that of

of the natives? The heavy yoke of cruel ſlavery may probably, as I have juſt ſaid, with regard to the men, leſſen the effects of a happy climate; but this impreſſion cannot operate with ſo much activity on the perſon of the women, who, nevertheleſs, ſeem to have loſt many more of their allurements. Does a long habit of good deſtroy its ſweet impreſſion? Or elſe have the excellent qualities of the air, which is breathed in CANDIA, ſomething too vigorous, and, if I may uſe the expreſſion, too maſculine for the delicate organs of the women, who have been expoſed to it from time immemorial?

With the exception of the leproſy, which was brought thither from ASIA, and which, with precautions, might be made to diſappear, as we have extirpated it in FRANCE, where it was one of the fatal preſents of the cruſades, there are no contagious nor prevailing diſorders in the Iſland of CANDIA. I ſpeak not of the plague, which, in countries where every prudential meaſure is unknown, may be introduced there accidentally. The water is as good as the air; it runs down on all ſides from the mountains; and, having great rapidity in its courſe over inclined rocks, it preſerves its limpidneſs, and does not

not collect into ponds or marſhes, whence might iſſue pernicious exhalations.

The nature of the productions of the earth partakes of that of the atmoſphere; their good qualities would not be inferior to their abundance, if agriculture, that mother of ſtates, could, I do not ſay be there encouraged, but ceaſe to be diſgraced and perſecuted. Commerce and induſtry, in order to fix themſelves there with ſplendour, are waiting only for a change in the government, and men more worthy to reign over a country which the inappreciable advantages that it has received from Nature have rendered famous, ſtill more than the annals of antiquity. Its plains, abandoned to an active culture, diveſted of every obſtacle, might, like thoſe of SICILY, become the granary which would inſure the ſubſiſtence of a population more numerous than it is in our days, as well as that of the neighbouring and leſs favoured countries. On a land, which its nature and that of the atmoſphere which warms it render impatient to produce, the inhabitants would take advantage of the forwardneſs of the harveſts, in order to commit to it, in the ſame year, plants which would double its produce. A change of crops,

well

well managed, would afford the facility of multiplying cattle, which are wanting there at the preſent day, and which, in the eyes of every intelligent farmer, are a certain ſource of fecundity and riches. New kinds of culture would find, on a ſoil ſo fertile, the elements of a productive vegetation, at the ſame time that thoſe to which the natives are habituated, would acquire greater increaſe and abundance.

In the firſt rank of theſe ancient productions of the earth, which ſtill offer ſome ſpeculation to commerce, but which, ſupported by a good adminiſtration, would become ſo flouriſhing, we muſt place the olive-tree. No climate, no ſoil is more propitious to it than that of CANDIA, and the oils which are drawn from it, refined like ours, would ceaſe to be common oils, fit only for ſoap-houſes and manufactories.

Independently of wheat and barley, which can ſcarcely be of a ſuperior quality, cotton alſo is there cultivated; but this commodity is neglected in the vallies of CANDIA, although it ſucceeds in them extremely well. Hands, and activity, which are diſcouraged by ſlavery and exactions, are wanting to agriculture, as well as to induſtry, and plains

which

which the labour of men might bring into uniſon with the rich profuſion of Nature, remain uſeleſs and forſaken.

This is the caſe with the mulberry-tree, by no means plentiful in CANDIA, though it would grow there amazingly well, and would make of the ſilk-trade, at moſt null in our days, one of the branches of public riches.

Seſamum*, the oil of which has, ſince ancient times, been much in uſe in the EAST, alſo occupies ſome place in the plains; but this ſerviceable plant is ſtill more neglected than the others.

One of the productions of the Iſland of CANDIA, which has preſerved its ancient reputation, is wine, which, in ſome diſtricts, is ſtill delicious. Every one knows that HOMER has praiſed the wine of CANDIA, and that JUPITER drank no other nectar during his ſtay in the iſland. The caloyers of a little convent, ſituated in a very fertile and very agreeable plain, half a league from CANEA†, preſented me with a wine ſtill

* *Seſamum indicum.* LINN.

† In this convent I ſaw the epitaph of a child of a French conſul, *M. Deſſe*, that was interred there in 1715.

worthy

worthy of figuring at the table of the gods, and which, in point of delicacy and perfume, was not inferior to the beſt known wines. The malmſey, which is made in the environs of Mount IDA, is alſo much eſteemed; but all theſe CANDIA wines muſt be drunk with great caution; they are of a fiery quality, fly very quickly to the head, and ſhake the nerves. The Turks of CANEA are leſs ſcrupulous obſervers of the prohibitions of MAHOMET, than thoſe of other countries. Several drink wine with much pleaſure, and it is not uncommon there to meet ſome who have all the ſymptoms of intemperance, and the effrontery of people who are not afraid of publicly manifeſting a contempt for the laws. It may eaſily be conceived, that the ſtrength of the wine neceſſarily increaſes the violence of their character, and to meet them at that time is not unattended with danger.

Although the commercial relations of FRANCE with CANDIA have been habitual, the wines of that iſland have never been an object of ſpeculation, whether they have been little known, or, which is more probable, whether the quantity which is made of them be not ſufficiently conſiderable to become an article of commerce of great importance in the

the eyes of our merchants in the LEVANT, who concerned themſelves little to diſcover new branches to add to thoſe pointed out to them by an old routine. I am convinced that the CANDIA wines, brought into our countries, would not appear inferior to their ancient renown. The Greeks, certain of finding new vents, would extend the culture of their vines, the produce of which would be another mean of facilitating mutual exchanges, and increaſing the advantages of a reciprocal commerce.

The plantations of Nature are no leſs uſeful in a country on which ſhe has poured her favours with profuſion, than thoſe which are due to culture. Not to mention thoſe charming ſhrubs, which an eternal ſpring preſerves, with ſo many charms, on a land that they inceſſantly adorn, nor of that prodigious quantity of aromatic plants with which the rocks are embalmed, foreſts cover, in ſeveral places, the declivity of the mountains, and crown the ſummit of the hills. Pines, cedars, and firs, there ſhoot forth ſtraight and tall ſtems, an inappreciable reſource for ſhip-building, as well as the reſin which exudes from theſe vaſt nurſeries of Nature. No country, perhaps, unites, with

ſo many advantages and ſo much profuſion, objects of great utility to thoſe of agreeableneſs; a valuable union, ſince it is the baſe of the proſperity of nations, and of the tranſient, but ſucceſſive happineſs of thoſe of whom they are compoſed.

On the mountains in the vicinity of CANEA, and at the foot of Mount IDA, grows a ſpecies of rock-roſe *, which yields *ladanum* or *labdanum*, a reſinous ſubſtance that ſerves for perfumes, and the preparation of certain drugs. The ancient Greeks called it *ledon*; it was of great value in their eyes, and they drew it from ſome other countries, and particularly SYRIA and the Iſle of CYPRUS. The ancients intruſted, in a manner, the goats with the care of collecting this article. Theſe animals, a real ſcourge to trees, on whoſe leaves and boughs they browſe, fell with avidity on the rock-roſes, whoſe odour attracts them, and the reſin which trickled from the branches, broken by their teeth, ſo pernicious to foreſts and plantations, clang to their beards, there became indurated, and formed little balls, which were carefully collected, but which were almoſt always mixed

* *Ciſtus ladaniferus.* LINN.

with

with goat's hair *, and infected with the ſtrong ſmell of that animal. At this day ladanum is collected with greater cleanlineſs; for that purpoſe is uſed a ſort of long-handled whip, formed of a double row of leathern ſtraps †, which is gently paſſed over the leaves of the rock-roſes, in the hotteſt time of the year, and during the greateſt heat of the day. The whole number of ſtraps of which this very ſimple inſtrument is compoſed, becomes loaded with ſhining drops as clear as turpentine: theſe are ſcraped off and made into cakes: this is ladanum, which, collected in this manner, would be very pure, had not a ſpirit of fraud taught the Greeks to adulterate it, by mixing it with ſand.

This ſort of crop, which preliminary labours have not introduced, and which Nature alone prepares every year, is ſtill profitable to the peaſants of CANDIA. Independently of the quantity of ladanum which paſſes into our countries, a great conſumption is made of it in the EAST. It is a cuſtom almoſt general to knead little bits of it between

* PLIN. Hiſt. Nat. lib. xii. cap. xvii.

† TOURNEFORT has given the figure of one of theſe whips, in the firſt volume of his *Voyage du Levant*, page 73 of the 4to edition.

the fingers, and to ſmell the ſweet and rather agreeable odour which they diffuſe; the women, principally, take a pleaſure in handling it in this manner. Beſides its perfume, this ſubſtance is reckoned to avert contagion, and to poſſeſs ſeveral other medical properties. In the iſlands of the ARCHIPELAGO, I have ſeen it pretty frequently uſed as a remedy for the head-ach, by applying it to the arteries of the temples.

If from the ſubſtances which the land of the Iſland of CANDIA produces, and which are of ſo excellent a quality, that, according to the ancients, every thing that grows in that iſland is incomparably better than what is gathered in other countries, we paſs to the uſeful animals which are there kept, we ſhall diſcover the ſame favours of Nature, the ſame remiſſneſs, the ſame negligence, on the part of the inhabitants, the neceſſary conſequence of general oppreſſion; in ſhort, the ſame means of amelioration in agriculture and of extenſion in commerce. The race of horſes which is there ſeen originally came from BARBARY; but they have extremely degenerated in point of form and beauty. Handſome horſes are ſcarce; but, on the other hand, there are none, perhaps, that can be compared to them for

for being ſtrong and ſupple in their limbs, and alſo for being ſurefooted. Accuſtomed to climb up ſteep mountains, or to deſcend very inclined planes, their ſtep is firm, and whether they carry a rider, or whether, loaded with heavy burdens, they ſeem to advance with difficulty, they never ſtumble in the moſt difficult places. The addreſs with which they aſcend and deſcend roads, which are nothing more than ſurfaces, almoſt level, of ſmooth marble, bordered by precipices, and on which the feet of the horſes appear not to have any hold, is truly admirable. By dint of having ſet their feet in the ſame place, they have marked the impreſſion of them, and, in the rougheſt deſcents, they cling, by putting them exactly into theſe little hollows, which they ſeek, and know how to find again with wonderful exactneſs. However frightful the road may appear, the traveller needs not be under any uneaſineſs on that account; it is ſufficient for him to ſuffer the horſe to proceed, and not confine his movements, by endeavouring to check the bridle, or to pull up his head, ſo as to hinder him from ſeeing the only little excavations that can prevent him from falling and throwing his rider. Theſe excellent horſes, intended for travelling in a country

entirely covered with rocky mountains, are, for the moſt part, abandoned to people who over-load and uſe them ill. The ſigns of miſery, the marks of ill uſage and of want of care, are to be remarked in the greater part of them. Such is, in general, the cruelty of the diſpoſition of man, who repays the important ſervices of a ſpecies of animals, all whoſe faculties are conſecrated to him, without reſerve, only by the coldeſt inſenſibility and barbarity the moſt ungrateful.

Another ſpecies of domeſtic animals of the Iſland of CANDIA, the faithful friends of man, and companions of the horſe, were formerly reckoned, on account of their fleetneſs and agility, the beſt in GREECE, after thoſe of LACEDEMONIA. But their race is degenerated, eſpecially ſince the Turks, great enemies to dogs, have made themſelves maſters of that beautiful country. The dogs of CANDIA, like almoſt all thoſe of the EAST, are a ſpecies of large greyhounds or courſing dogs, which, to be handſome animals, require only a little attention. But, in thoſe countries of tyranny and ſlavery, theſe animals, to whom attachment is a want, cannot exerciſe that amiable quality of their inſtinct; every where repulſed, in vain they endeavour to

to exhibit ſome ſteril marks of it; obliged to check themſelves, even in the very ſigns of their affection, they, nevertheleſs, miſerable as they are, prefer living with man, and, as it were, in ſpite of him, rather than emancipate themſelves from a condition of neglect and misfortune, by returning to their primitive ſtate of liberty, in which they would, indeed, no longer have ill uſage to undergo; but which would deprive them of the hope of obeying the fate of the law impoſed on them by Nature, of having no other will than that of their maſters, no other ſentiment than that of abſolute devotion.

On the ſubject of dogs, which are in very great numbers in the towns of TURKEY, I ſhall remark, that we might ſeek there in vain that ſpecies, rather uncommon and without hair, which we call the *Turkiſh dog*, and ſometimes the naked dog. It is not in the temperate climate of TURKEY that dogs loſe their hair, it is not even under the burning ſky of EGYPT; for thoſe ſeen in the moſt northern part, which is diſtinguiſhed by the name of LOWER EGYPT, are of the race of large greyhounds, deformed by want, which are found in the other towns of TURKEY; and thoſe of UPPER EGYPT have long hair;

and ſomewhat reſemble our ſhepherd's dog. I cannot ſay, with preciſion, from what country the Turkiſh dog originally came; but I have never met with a ſingle one in TURKEY; and whatever inquiry I made, thoſe to whom I applied were unable to indicate to me where any of them were to be found, or even to give me to underſtand that they were known in that country. I have even ſome reaſon to ſuſpect that this is a diſtinct and ſeparate ſpecies; and the ſcarcity of theſe dogs in EUROPE might lead us to preſume that they are a ſimple accidental variety in a ſpecies of animals, the races of which are inceſſantly croſſed and mingled; a variety which may have been called *Turkiſh dog*, becauſe, having ſcarcely any hair, they have ſome reſemblance to the Turks, with whoſe ſcrupulous attention to eradicate their hair every one is well acquainted.

In CANDIA no carnivorous and ferocious animal exiſts. The ſhepherd is eaſy as to the fate of his flock, which has not to dread the murderous tooth of the wolf. Accordingly the ſheep there paſs their life, in the open air, browſing, at full liberty, on the odoriferous plants with which the mountains abound. Grottoes, formed by Nature in the boſom

of

of the rocks, ſerve them as a ſhelter againſt ſtorms and bad weather. The milk given by the ewes and ſhe-goats furniſhes very good cheeſe. Thoſe which are made at SPHACHIA, the ſouthern diſtrict of the iſland, have a great reputation, and are ſent all over the LEVANT. But a more important article of commerce is wool, of which there is alſo exported a ſmall quantity that will appear very trivial, if we compare it to the abundance of the food which the country affords for the ſupport of flocks more numerous and better taken care of, than they are under a government, the real ſcourge of agriculture, and under which nothing proſpers but tyranny.

The Greeks alſo keep hogs, a greater number of which would be profitable to rural economy. The inhabitants ought at leaſt to feel themſelves, in ſome meaſure, obliged to the Turks, to whom hogs are animals unclean and deteſted, for not preventing their being reared in the country-places, where, however, they are not very common. A hog is even a preſent which is of ſome value in the eyes of the Greek villagers. I happened, one day, to be in a village between CANEA and RETIMO, with my janizary, and my Provençal renegado. I lodged at the houſe of an honeſt

farmer, whoſe wife meddled a little with phyſic and bleeding. I never received ſo many marks of frank and cordial hoſpitality, as during the very ſhort ſtay which I made with theſe worthy people. The woman, in particular, laviſhed on me the moſt officious civilities, and the moſt delicate attentions. She might be reckoned one of the handſome women of the iſland, where, as I have ſaid, beauty is rather uncommon. She was no longer young; but her face was characterized by thoſe large and noble features, which are the appendage of the Greek women in general; her eyes were remarkably fine; her hair, of a ſhining black, was braided with ribands, which only half ſurrounded it, and this braid, rolled on the top of the head, formed a ſort of helmet or turban, which ſet off, with no inconſiderable advantage, the features of her face. To theſe exterior allurements, this worthy Greek woman added a tender and generous heart. In order partly to teſtify to her my gratitude, I offered her an excellent lancet, for which ſhe had appeared to have a great fancy. She attached ſo much value to this trifling preſent, that ſhe was determined to make me one in her turn.

The morning before my departure, while the attendants were getting ready our horſes, ſhe cauſed a live hog to be brought, and tied on mine, which I was greatly aſtoniſhed to ſee on my ſaddle, when I was preparing to mount. The not over-ſcrupulous janizary, who accompanied me, had himſelf aſſiſted to faſten on this ſingular portmanteau. With an infinite deal of trouble I got it removed. My landlady appeared grieved at my refuſal, and I had no ſmall difficulty to make her comprehend how highly improper it would be that I ſhould enter a Turkiſh town, where hogs are held in abhorrence, with one of thoſe animals tied on behind me.

A branch of rural induſtry, which is not ſufficiently encouraged in our country, and which ſucceeds in CANDIA with great facility, and without much trouble, is the multiplication of bees. In order to ſhew the goodneſs of the honey which they yield, the ancients feigned that JUPITER had been fed on it, on Mount IDA. This honey is, in fact, of the greateſt beauty; and wax, which enters at preſent, but on a very ſmall ſcale, into the export-trade of the iſland, would there be extremely abundant, if activity, the mother

CHAPTER XXII.

Carnivorous animals.—Birds of prey.—Serpents.—Tarantula.—Mining ſpider.—Lizard.—Golden plovers.—Thruſhes.—Hydrophobia.—Proſcarabæus.—Candia.—Cnoſſus.—Gortyna.—*Labyrinth.*—Retimo.—*Harbour of* Paleo-Caſtro.—*Sphachiots.*—*Pyrrhic dance.*

AN iſland, which gave birth to JUPITER, and in which every thing announced the favour and the gratitude of the gods, ought not to contain any thing miſchievous, nor feed any noxious animal. The ancients, ſtruck by the numerous allurements of the Iſland of CANDIA, which they regarded as an abode truly celeſtial, did not content themſelves with ſaying that no wild beaſt ſhed blood on its territory, which is the truth; ſince, on the ſuppoſition that carnivorous quadrupeds had there exiſted, their races have entirely diſappeared, and the uſeful and innocent ewe is not in fear of ſeeing its feeble lamb

lamb carried off by cruel ſpoilers. But exaggeration has been blended with the accounts of the ancients, or rather with the encomiums that they took a pleaſure in ſcattering over the deſcription of a country of which there is ſufficient good to be ſaid, without there being a neceſſity for having recourſe to imaginary advantages. It was aſſerted that birds of prey even could not there ſubſiſt, and that, if any were brought thither, they ſoon periſhed. It is unneceſſary to premiſe, that this was carrying the matter a little too far: the bird of prey, whoſe rapid and continued flight clears great ſpaces, may very eaſily arrive in the Iſland of CANDIA, eſtabliſh itſelf, and multiply on the ſhattered ſummits of the high rocks with which it is thickly ſtrewn, or on the top of the large trees which tower above its ſurface: the ſmall game, which there abounds, affords a food eaſily acquired by birds that live by the death of others; and the nature of their retreats would render it very difficult to diſlodge them. And, indeed, birds of prey, and even thoſe whoſe too tender eye cannot ſupport the brightneſs of day, and which are addicted only to nocturnal excurſions, are there met with rather frequently, although

although the ancients had thence excluded them without juſt reaſon.

It is alſo without foundation that it was formerly aſſerted, that the Iſland of CANDIA was exempt from ſerpents and other venemous animals: PLINY, nevertheleſs, made an exception in favour of the *phalangium*, or *tarantula*.. On a hilly ſoil, which retains no ſtagnant waters, and which long rains do not impregnate with too much humidity, the propagation of reptiles and inſects cannot be conſiderable, and there they find not the elements which compoſe their poiſon. BELON had already obſerved that three ſpecies of ſerpents were there known: the *ophis*, the *ochendra*, and the *ephloti* *. It is no eaſy matter to indicate, with preciſion, what are the ſpecies diſtinguiſhed by theſe ancient names: to clear up this point of criticiſm, it would be neceſſary to enter into diſcuſſions, the reſult of which would afford nothing very ſatisfactory, or otherwiſe have beheld theſe ſerpents, and this is not the caſe with me.

The tarantula is here reckoned to be very venemous, and even to occaſion death; but

* *Obſervations de pluſieurs ſingularités et choſes mémorables, trouvées en Grèce*, &c.

I have

I have every reaſon to ſuſpect that there alſo exiſts here another ſpecies of ſpider, as dangerous as the tarantula. This is on what I ground my conjectures. Several Frenchmen, who had reſided for a long time at CANEA, and even ſome of the moſt intelligent Greeks, told me that a ſpider, whoſe ſting is mortal, was to be found in this country. They could not deſcribe it to me in ſuch a manner as to make me recognise it; but they were acquainted with the tarantula, and they aſſured me, that the inſect of which they were ſpeaking to me differed from it greatly: indeed, they gave me a convincing proof of this difference. It is well known that the tarantula dwells in the ground during the winter, or during the rainy ſeaſon; and that, in the dry ſeaſon, it keeps in the air, and ſpins its web. The ſpider here in queſtion, on the contrary, though as big as the tarantula, lives conſtantly in ſubterraneous retreats: theſe are ſmall cylindrical cavities, clothed internally with threads, and the entrance of which is cloſed by a hinged lid, ſimilar to that of a ſnuff-box. This induſtrious inſect is of the ſpecies of the maſon-ſpider, which SAUVAGES diſcovered in LANGUEDOC, and which has alſo been

ſeen in the Iſland of CORSICA. For the extremely curious details of the habits of this ſpider, I refer the reader to a very circumſtantial Memoir, which my learned friend LATREILLE has publiſhed on this ſubject, in the *Mémoires de la Société d'Hiſtoire Naturelle de Paris.* He will there ſee with what implements Nature has provided the inſect deſtined to dig its abode: it carries in its head, above the inſertion of the claws, a ſet of parallel and prominent teeth; it is a ſort of rake, with which the animal turns up the earth, and ſmooths the walls of its retreat.

Although the mining ſpider of LANGUEDOC is not reckoned venemous, it would not be extraordinary that it ſhould be ſo in the EAST; we know that this inſect, or at leaſt a ſpecies very ſimilar, occaſions by its ſting very ſerious accidents in JAMAICA*. However, without being ſcarce in CANDIA, the maſon-ſpider does not make its appearance there frequently; becauſe, accuſtomed to live under ground, it dreads the broad day, and iſſues from its cell only during the night.

* *See* BROWN, *Natural Hiſtory of* JAMAICA, tab. XLIV. fig. 4; and the Memoir of LATREILLE reſpecting mining ſpiders.

I was alſo aſſured that there was, in the ſame country, a ſpecies of lizard very venemous; but I did not ſee it, and it is only from ſimple conjecture that I ſuſpect that it might probably be the *gecko**, which is met with in other countries of the EAST, in the vicinity of the Iſland of CANDIA, and particularly in BARBARY and EGYPT.

It is to this inconſiderable number of miſchievous beings that the danger of inhabiting the Iſland of CANDIA is reduced; and our readers will admit that theſe are thorns ſcarcely perceptible, in the midſt of the immenſe and delightful quantity of flowers and charms with which it is rich and brilliant.

All the neceſſaries of life are there to be found in great plenty; the coaſts abound with fiſh; the plains and the mountains feed a great deal of game, and, above all, a conſiderable number of red partridges. Birds of paſſage come and increaſe the multitude of thoſe beings which man has conſecrated to his voracity. Golden plovers are very common at the beginning of the winter; and when the cold begins to be felt, without ever being ſufficiently powerful to form

* *Lacerta gecko.* LINN.

ice, the Greeks of the country-places make on the thruſhes a ſucceſsful attack. Thoſe birds all retire into the groves of orange and lemon trees, to paſs the night; their purſuers, with deceitful lights, carry alarm into the midſt of theſe ſleeping flocks; imagining that it is day, the thruſhes quit the foliage, the charming aſylum which a cruel ſnare converts into a ſcene of death; they are ſeen flying round the torches, and they are knocked on the head with large wooden battledores. In this manner the peaſants fill ſacks with them, and carry them to the markets of the towns.

Although the terrible diſorder, with the nature of which we are yet ſo little acquainted, I mean the hydrophobia, is unknown in warmer countries of the EAST, I have been told that it makes its appearance, but rather ſeldom indeed, in the Iſland of CANDIA. DAPPER alſo mentions that this iſland has been frequently afflicted by mad dogs, which have from time to time incommoded the inhabitants*. The remedy which the King of PRUSSIA purchaſed, and cauſed to be publiſhed in 1777, is there

* *Deſcription de l'Archipel.* folio, page 462.

known

known; and it is very probable that it is from that or ſome neighbouring country, that the poſſeſſor of this pretended ſecret has obtained it, for it was not a novelty. MATHIOLE has ſpoken of it from AVICENNE*, and I have been aſſured that, from time immemorial, the Candiots employed it as a ſovereign ſpecific againſt madneſs. Our conſul at CANEA told me, that as far back as 1776, he had ſent to FRANCE the inſect which furniſhes this ſpecific; whence we muſt conclude that the pretended diſcovery of this remedy in EUROPE was nothing more than an impoſition.

This inſect is the *meloë* or oil-beetle, a ſpecies of proſcarabæus †, the larva of which bears the name of *may-worm*; it is common in our countries; in the ſpring, it is to be found in gardens, woods, fields, and foreſts. An oily liquor iſſues from the body of the inſect, when it is touched or cruſhed. In CANDIA, it is reduced to powder, which the patient ſwallows; but this remedy poſſeſſes a very violent activity; it cauſes convulſions, pains in the bowels, inflammations,

* *Commentaires ſur* DIOSCORIDES, liv. vi.

† *Meloë proſcarabæus.* LINN.

agony

agony, bleedings at the noſe, bloody urine, and even death, when it is taken in too large a doſe. The ancient phyſicians conſidered it as a favourable ſymptom, if the man, attacked by madneſs, paſſed blood in his urine*; but ſuch curative means are equivalent to the diſorder itſelf, and the moderns have been in the right to relinquiſh them.

Although CANEA is the moſt populous and moſt trading town of the iſland, yet it is not the capital. CANDIA has preſerved that title, even after it has loſt the advantages thence accruing. Its harbour, much frequented in the time of the Venetians, has been choked up from the effect of the general improvidence of the Turks, ſo that it can now admit only the ſmall barks of the country. Merchant-veſſels can no longer enter it but in ballaſt, or with a fourth of their lading; and if they are under the neceſſity of taking in their cargo, they muſt, like the ſhips of war, repair to *STAN-DIA*, a ſmall iſland four leagues off, and oppoſite to CANDIA. This iſland has preſerved its ancient name of *DIA*; for that of *STAN-DIA*, which the European navigators give it, is a compoſi-

* MATHIOLE, at the place quoted.

tion

tion of the Greek words, *eis ten Dias*, to go to *Dia*. Boats convey thither goods on board the ſhipping.

So great a reſtraint has reduced to almoſt nothing the trade of the town of CANDIA; barks bring from CANEA the productions of that part of the iſland; and ſhortly, as I have ſaid, the harbour of this latter town will become equally impracticable, and ſhips, like commerce, will no longer have any point of union, or place to take in their cargoes, but the rocky and uninhabited coaſt of the Gulf of SUDA.

The town of CANDIA, built on the ſpot which was occupied by the ancient city of HERACLEA, is ſituated in a beautiful plain, interſected by ſloping hills, which ſhare its fertility. It is the *KHANDAK* of the Arabs; a word derived from *candax*, which, according to ſome of the learned, ſignifies *entrenchment*. It is evident, from the buildings in this town, that it is not the work of the Turks; ſtraight ſtreets, regular ſquares, houſes ſubſtantially conſtructed — every thing announces that it owes its exiſtence to the Venetians; but every thing announces, at the ſame time, both the frightful ravages of war and the ſlower havock of want. Here

are

are ſtill to be ſeen ruins, the remains of the memorable ſiege which it ſuſtained, for twenty-three years, againſt the Ottoman forces. The loſs of its commerce has changed its flouriſhing ſituation into an unhappy ſtate, and has coſiderably reduced the number of its inhabitants, who, for the moſt part, have removed to CANEA, together with the foreign merchants.

It is, nevertheleſs, ſtill the ſeat of the general government of the iſland. The pacha, ſent thither by the court of CONSTANTINOPLE, is a pacha with three tails; but, proud of his dignity and of his power, he contents himſelf with commanding a militia frequently ungovernable: entirely occupied by his private fortune, he thinks only of extending it by exactions, and concerns himſelf little to re-eſtabliſh, repair, or procure a few advantages for a country, to which he is a ſcourge, like the government from which he derives his authority.

Near CANDIA, are lying in the duſt the ruins of CNOSSUS, an ancient town where MINOS held his court, and the abode of the moſt powerful and the moſt warlike people of the Iſland of CRETE. A ſmall village, *CNOSSOU*, would recall to mind the ſite

ſite of the ancient town, were it not diſcoverable, in a manner no leſs certain than afflicting, from the rubbiſh which covers it, and a great part of which has ſerved for the buildings of modern CANDIA.

Some ruins, which occupy a great extent of ground, and ſtill afford fragments of ancient magnificence, are thoſe of GORTYNA, a celebrated town, whoſe power and ſplendour eclipſed that of CNOSSUS. Near this ſpot is ſeen the labyrinth; it appears not to be that which was famous in antiquity, and particularly from the ſtory or fable of ARIADNE and THESEUS. This latter was near CNOSSUS, and there no longer appear any veſtiges of it. The labyrinth of GORTYNA is, according to all appearance, nothing more than immenſe quarries, ſuch as are to be met with in the vicinity of great towns. Such is the opinion of judicious obſervers. SAVARY combats it; but every one knows that this writer was not the partiſan of ſimple and natural effects; he took a delight in giving to the objects of antiquity, of which he ſpoke, a very lofty origin, in order that he might take the opportunity of tracing it, very ably no doubt, but in a very uncertain manner, from events which ages cover with an obſcurity that it is not always

eaſy to penetrate. In truth, in this labyrinth, or rather in theſe quarries of GORTYNA, there is nothing ſurpriſing, and they may be compared to the numerous and immenſe galleries from which have been taken the ſtones of the edifices and houſes of PARIS.

Between CANEA and CANDIA ſtands, on the ſea-ſhore, a ſmall town, whoſe preſent name of *RETIMO*, is nearly the ſame as that of *RITHYMNA*, which it formerly bore. Its ſituation is delightful; the plain which ſurrounds it is rich in all ſorts of proviſions; its gardens are very agreeable, and its houſes well built; but its harbour is no longer practicable except for the barks of the country; ſhips remain in the road; yet they anchor there but ſeldom; and RETIMO, which, from its poſition, the abundance of oil which is collected in its vicinity, and the other productions of its territory, might be an important place of trade, has, as well as CANDIA, ſeen a part of its population paſs to CANEA.

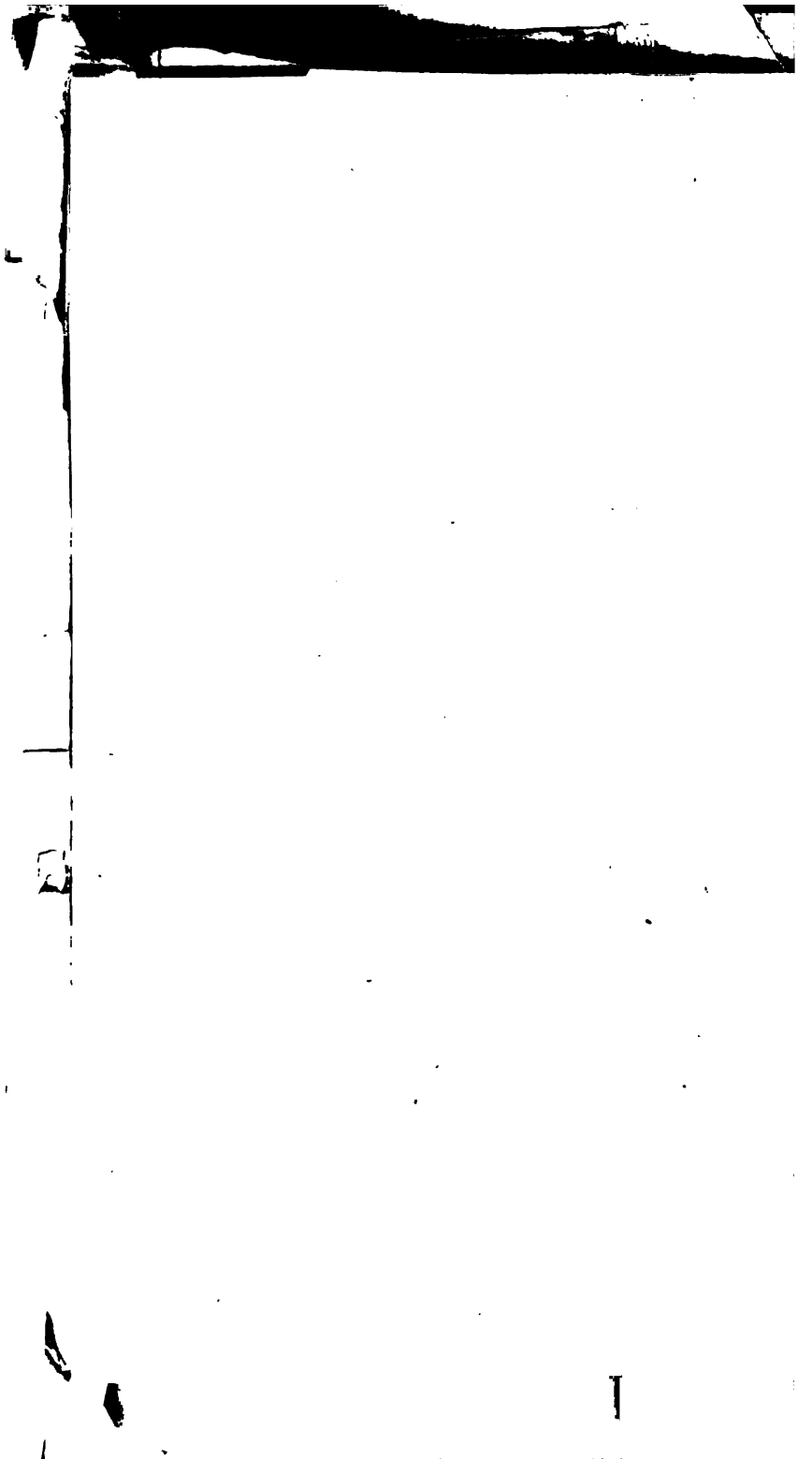
Independently of the harbour of SUDA, there alſo exiſts another equally ſpacious, convenient, and ſafe, in the moſt eaſtern part of the iſland, in a gulf formed by Cape SIDERA and Cape SOLOMON; but the coaſt preſents not more habitations than at SUDA.

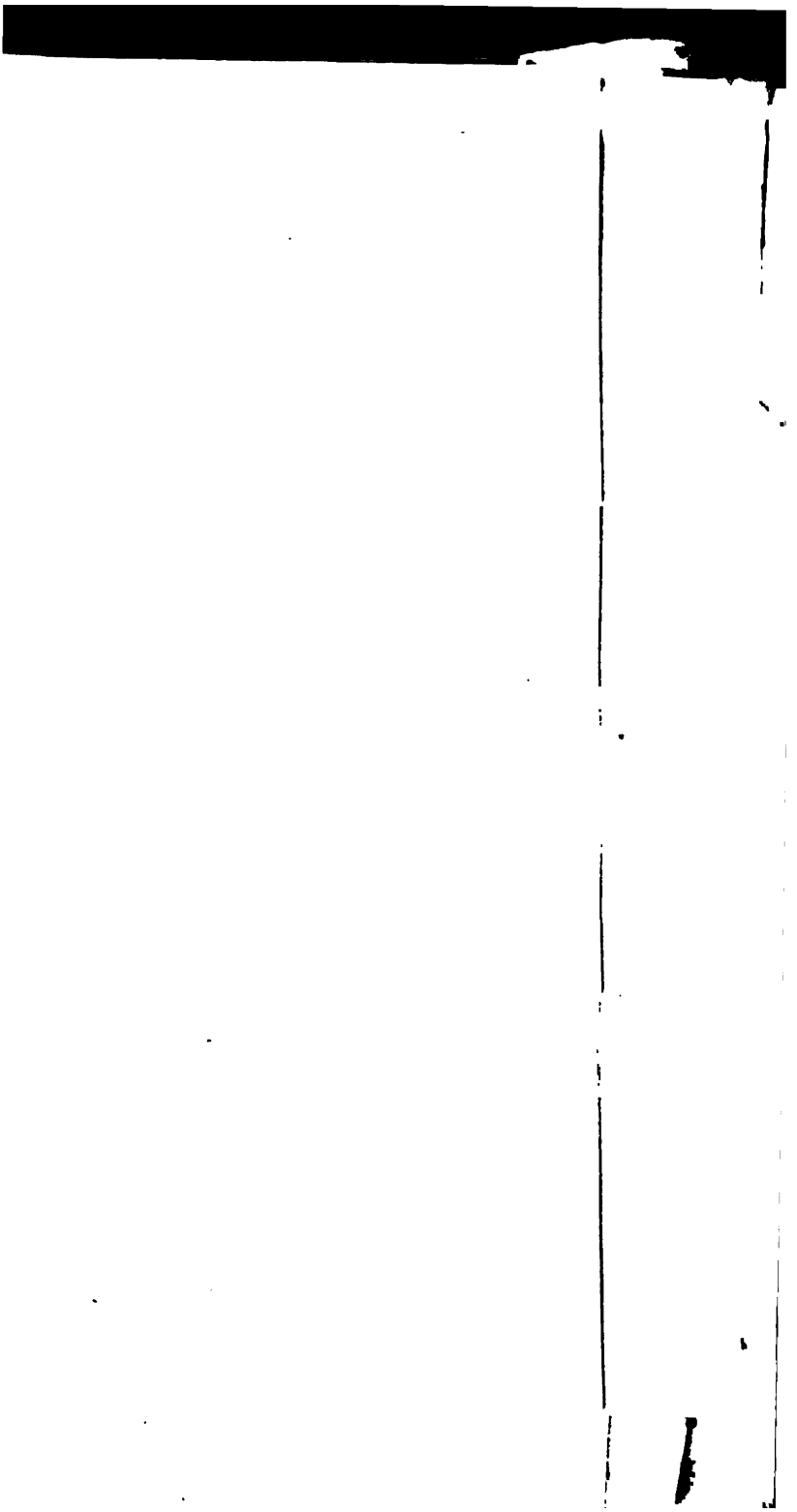
Here are to be ſeen nothing but ruins, called by the Greeks PALEO CASTRO, a name which they give to all antient towns, a few herdſmen's huts, rocks, and brambles; except a great quantity of red partridges. Contrary winds detained me there for ſeveral days, in going to ALEXANDRIA, on board of the ATALANTE frigate, which they had compelled to put into this port. We had with us a felucca. The ſight of theſe two veſſels of war ſo intimidated the ſhepherds of the coaſt, that they haſtily made their eſcape, with their flocks, and abandoned to us the ſoil and their cabins. Not one of them re-appeared during our ſtay. They probably took our veſſels for Turkiſh veſſels, and thus ſecured themſelves from the oppreſſion of their crews. What muſt be the fate of this intereſting and unfortunate people of GREECE, ſince the ſole approach of thoſe, to whom a fatal deſtiny has ſubjected them, is in their eyes a dreadful ſcourge!

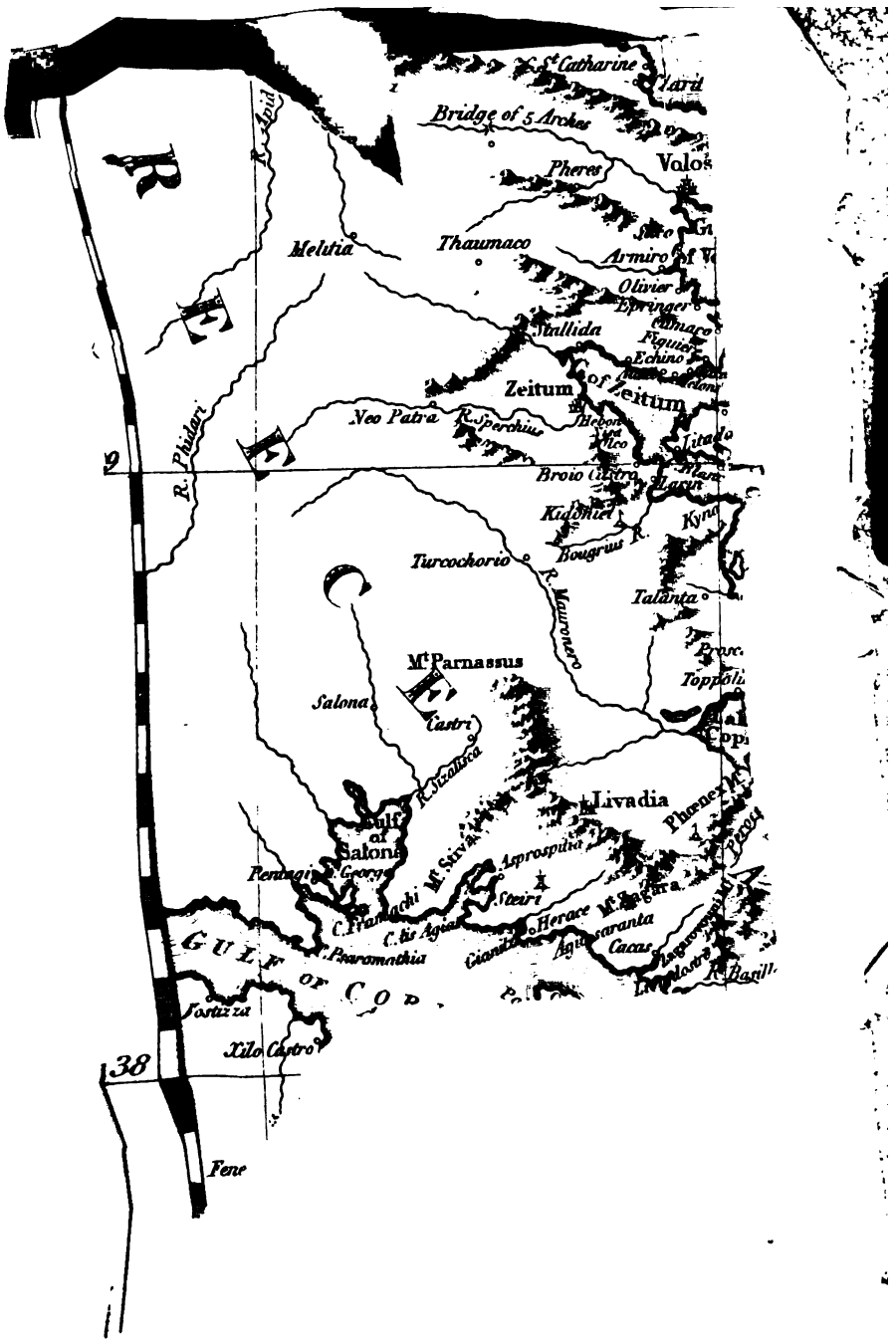
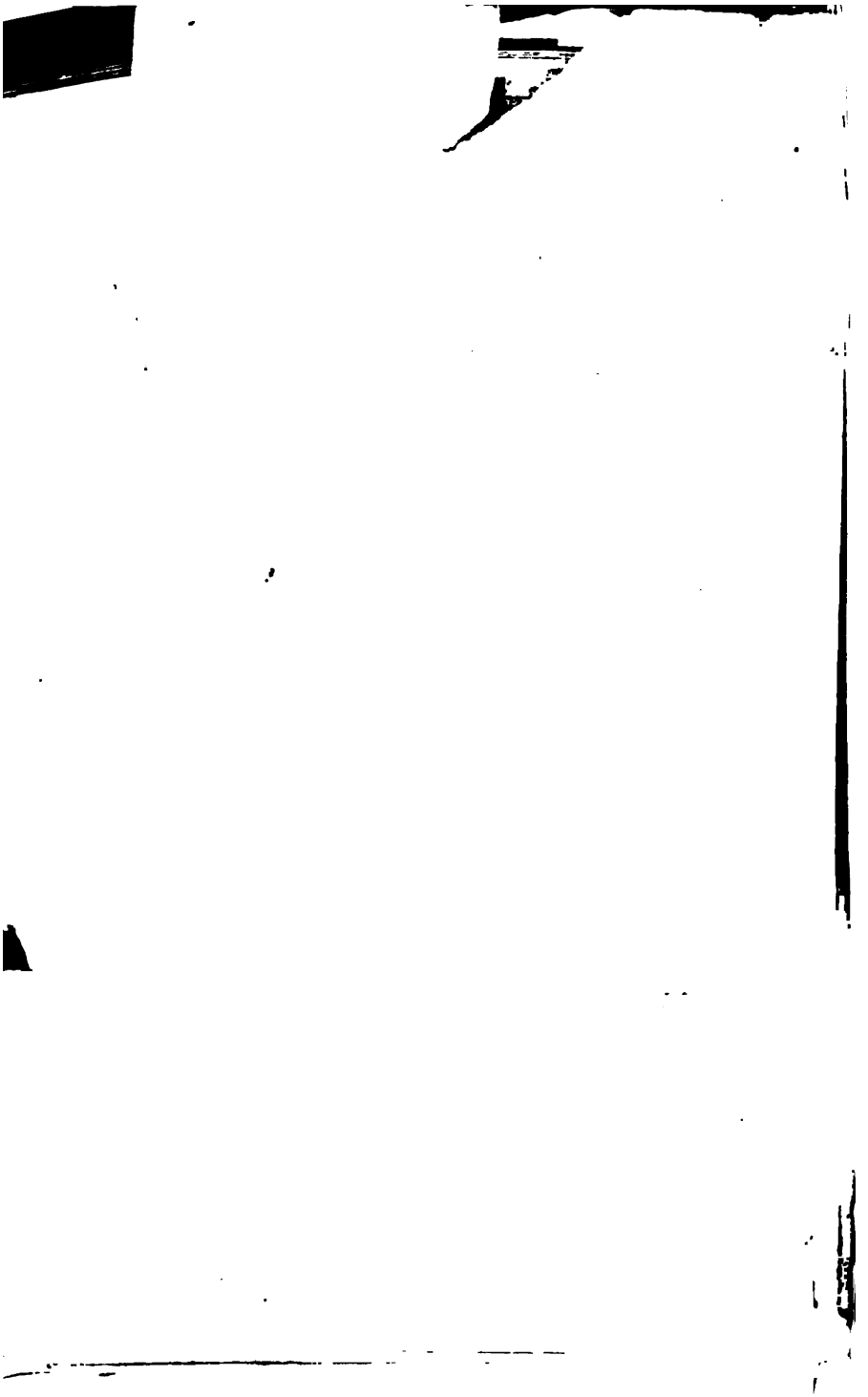
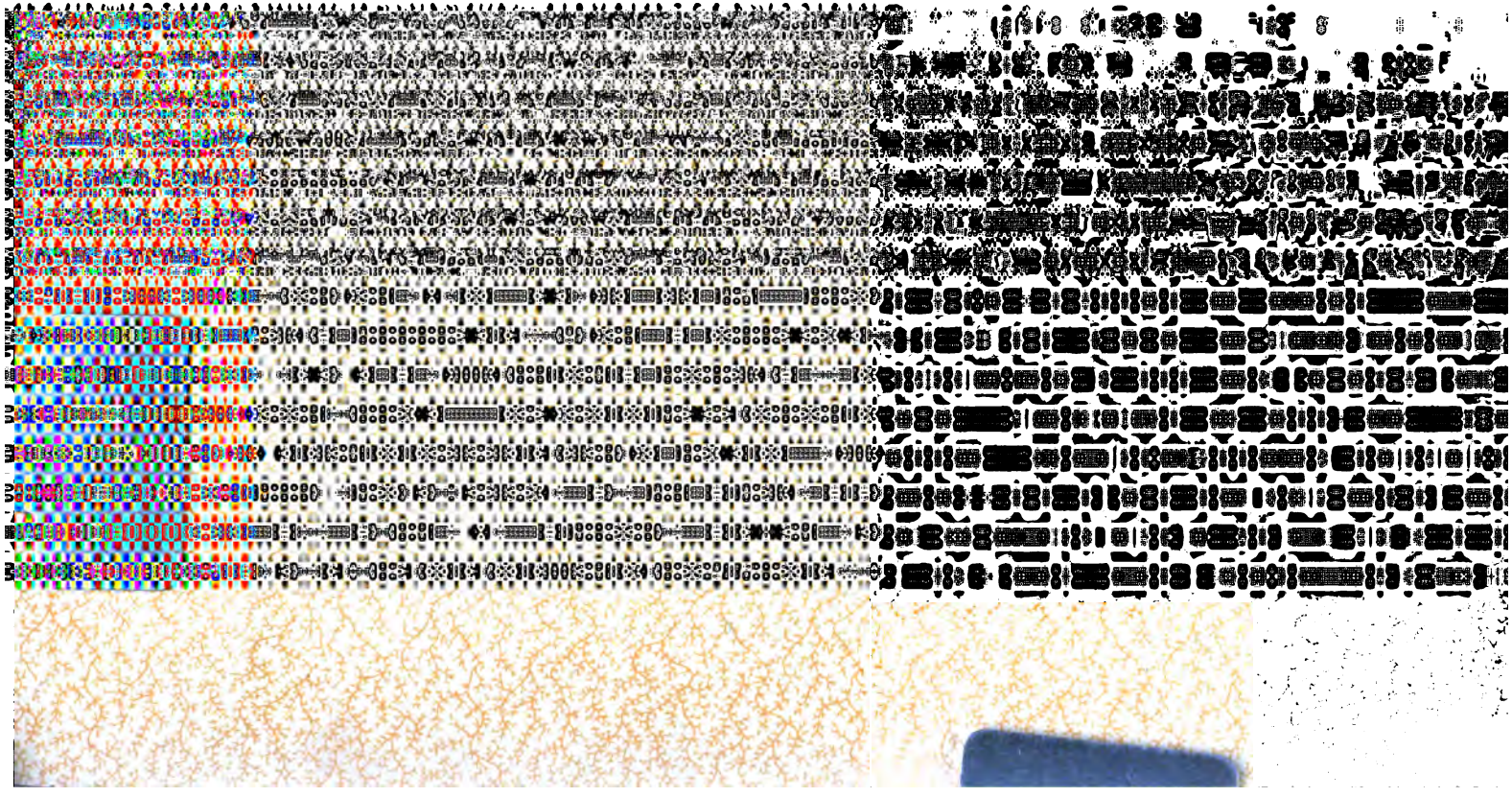
I ſhall not undertake to give a deſcription of a country ſo vaſt as the Iſland of CANDIA; this would be the object of a long work, and I have no intention of carrying the preſent to too great an extent. What I have ſaid of it is ſufficient for preſenting the general picture of one of the moſt beautiful and

and moſt ſmiling countries on earth; and longer details would lead me too far. I ſhall add but one word reſpecting the tribe of Greeks who inhabit the mountains of SPACHIA, on the ſouth coaſt of the iſland. They ſpeak a purer dialect than the other Greeks, becauſe habituated to the ſimple and hard life of mountaineers, they have diſdained to mix with the nations which have ſucceſſively occupied their country. They are good warriors, and very dexterous in ſhooting with a bow; but ſeveral diſgrace their courage and their ſkill by giving themſelves up to robbery; frequently they lie in ambuſh behind the rocks which ſkirt the roads acroſs the mountains; they attack and kill paſſengers, and are, above all, dreaded by Turkiſh travellers. It is ſaid that the Sphachiots are the only ones among the Greeks who have preſerved the Pyrrhic or warlike dance, which is executed with arms in the hand, and at the ſame time performing various evolutions. It is not aſtoniſhing that nations, to whom the terrible repreſentation of war is a ſport and recreation, ſhould have ſavage manners, and be inclined to realize, by violent actions, ſcenes which they are in the habit of repreſenting in their amuſements.

END OF FIRST VOLUME.







St Catharine
Bridge of 5 Arches
Pheres
Volos
Melitia
Thaumaco
Armiro
Olivier
Epringer
Stallida
Figuier
Echino
Zeitum
Neo Patra
R. Sperchius
Broio Castro
Kidoniei
Bougrius R.
Turcochorio
R. Mauronero
Talanta
Mt Parnassus
Salona
Castri
R. Sizalisca
Livadia
Gulf of Salona
Pentagi
Mt Stiva
Asprospilia
Steiri
Herace
Cacas
Psaromathia
Fostizza
Xilo Castro
Fene
R. Phidari
R. Apid
9
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